

## Production and simplification trump sustainability in Hogan's hearing

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Despite an eloquent performance, Commissioner-designate Hogan does not reassure on his plan for the Common Agriculture Policy. His references to environmental sustainability were pretty weak and vague in comparison to his commitments to simplifying bureaucracy, increasing production and satisfying market players. He however has made commitments to respect of EU environment legislation that we will do not hesitate to remind him of during his mandate.

"Hogan seems committed to a flawed vision of increasing food production in order to boost exports as paramount objective, while not really seeing sustainability issues beyond the immediate needs of farming such as water", said Ariel Brunner, Head of EU Policy at Birdlife Europe.

Biodiversity has been mentioned only once in three hours of hearing. No commitments have been made to improve the environmental performance of the CAP, or to assess the value for money provided by a policy absorbing 40% of EU budget. MEPs, and the future Commissioner, have obsessively focused on "simplification", failing systematically to tackle the issue of effectiveness. BirdLife Europe believes the Hogan hearing is yet another confirmation of the downgrading of environmental concerns in the new Commission.

Trees Robijns, Senior EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe stated "MEPs were rolling out the red carpet for Mr. Hogan, instead of grilling him on important issues such as loss of biodiversity underpinning Europe's possibility to produce. Disappointment today was more about the quality of the questions than of the responses."

Angelo Caserta, Birdlife Europe director, concludes: "Hogan offered a business as usual program that is simply not up to the huge challenges facing European farming, from the collapse of biodiversity to widespread soil degradation and looming climate change. We urgently need a fundamental rethink of this Commission's approach to the environment.

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BirdLife Europe is a Partnership of nature conservation organisations in 49 countries, including all EU Member States, and a leader in bird conservation. Through its unique local to global approach BirdLife Europe delivers high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

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