

FRANCE WAS PROMISED A GREEN AGRICULTURE REFORM — but this is what we got!



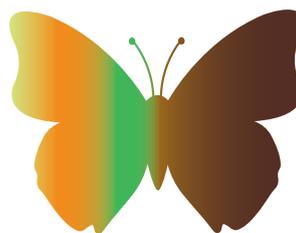
PROMISE



We were promised a space for nature in French farmland, but...



REALITY



35%

of French farmland and 50% of farmers will not have to respect rules that protect biodiversity.¹

1

One third of farmland in France will not be required to include ecological focus areas that protect biodiversity, such as buffer strips between fields, trees, hedges and ponds. This will make it even more difficult for animals like birds, insects, butterflies, bees and small mammals to survive in farmland areas. Less space for nature has further negative impacts on water and soil quality, as well as on the control of pests.



We were promised a step towards more sustainable agriculture, but...



in the case of Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) we risk a step backwards. Farmland used for energy crops, even those receiving pesticides, could be classified as EFAs.

2

While the greening was supposed to raise the environmental performance of all EU farms, the numerous exemptions and the European definition of EFAs present the risk of taking a step backwards in terms of biodiversity, soil and water protection on farmland.



We were promised better water quality, but...



the CAP cross compliance system will not include any measures to improve water quality.

3

It needs to be remembered that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) will not be included in the CAP cross compliance system. Therefore, the new CAP reform will fail to deliver on water quality protection. Water pollution caused by farming practices (mostly due to pesticide and fertilizer use) costs citizens between €0.6 to €1.1 billion in annual water bills. On average around 10% goes to water clean-up; the equivalence of €494 per household in the most polluted areas.²

¹ Statistics from Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicator_-_soil_cover

² Statistics from French Ministry of Environment <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/ED52-2.pdf>



The average European household contributed €277 per year to the CAP between 2007-2013.

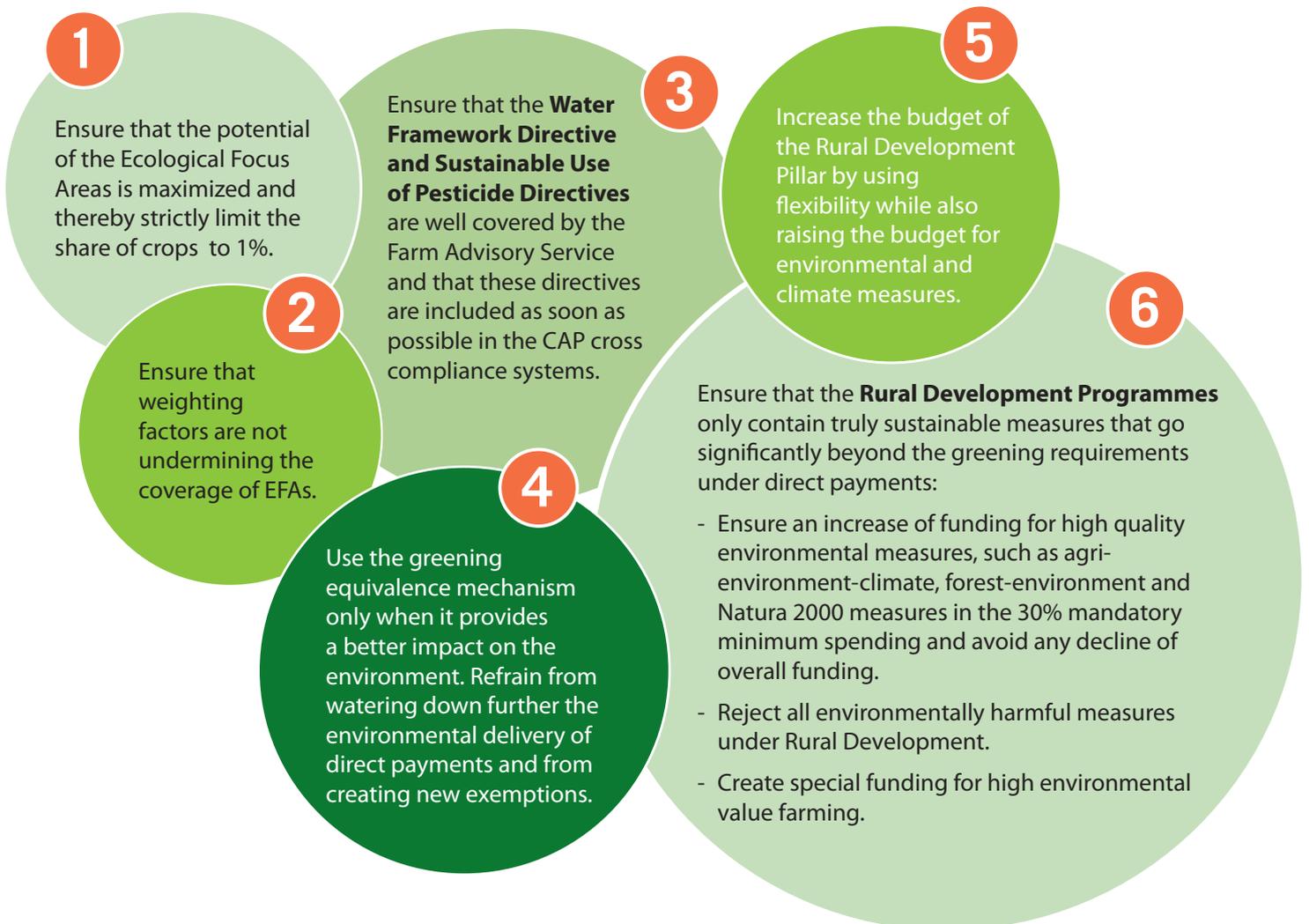
In exchange for the billions of euros paid annually in taxes, Europeans were promised a green and more sustainable CAP reform.

The transition towards a greener and more sustainable farming is unlikely to take form because greening has been weakened and exemptions from green measures have become the rule rather than the exception.

But it is not over yet.

Now all efforts have to focus on getting the most out of the implementation of the reform. The French Government has the ability to make this happen.

Decision makers are urged to take this final opportunity and:



Only if this is achieved can we see a Common Agriculture Policy that contributes to nature protection, maximizes opportunities for French farmers and delivers on its promise for a greener Europe.



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