

*Brussels – 03 May 2017*

## While society massively calls for a more progressive policy, subset of Parliament is further sinking previous CAP reform

At the end of the consultation on the future of the CAP – the agriculture committee of the European Parliament has found another silent tool to further take apart the little that is left of greening.

In what was meant to be a simplification exercise of [the Commission in the Omnibus proposal](#) (a review process of the EU budget including almost all the policies also the CAP), the AGRI committee of the Parliament has decided to use the technical simplification exercise to have its own mini-reform and silently water down greening even further. This morning the Agricultural Committee in the European Parliament voted in the committee.

The outcome, touching upon several elements, is also taking apart the little that was left over from the greening, while this had not been the purpose of the European Commission who had only put in elements on active farmer, young farmer, voluntary coupled support and the likes in their proposal.

Environmentally related elements of the proposal that got voted through this morning:

- to exempt more farmers from the greening requirements – increasing the thresholds, exempting land that was leased out and rice fields from some of the greening requirements, making requirements kick in later
- to allow new crops such as miscanthus, wild grasses, white mustard, hemp, etc. in the ecological focus areas – further watering down the need to have real ecological elements in these EFAs – meant in the first place for biodiversity
- to take away the power from the commission to draw up delegated acts on the weighing factors and to set these weighting factors themselves at higher levels – by increasing these weighting factors, it is ensuring the farmers can just do crops and can bother even less with the real ecological elements in the EFAs

BirdLife comments: It is ironic that on the day that the first results of the Commission CAP Consultation came out, there is a complete mismatch between what society wants and what politicians do. With over a quarter million people asking for a drastic change of the CAP, a small part of the legislators in Brussels just keep on focusing on their own benefits. It seems that just a few members in the house are trying to take what is still the largest and most expensive policy in a direction that the rest of society does not want. We are calling upon the leadership of the European Parliament to set things straight. In times where the legitimacy of the Union is being questioned on a daily basis, leadership should be sailing the ship back into safe waters and avoid that mini-reforms of major policies can be done through the back door. **ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes:**

Press release 03 May 2017 - Over 250,000 Europeans call on EU Commission to radically reform EU agriculture <http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/pr/Europeans-call-on-EU-Commission>

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