

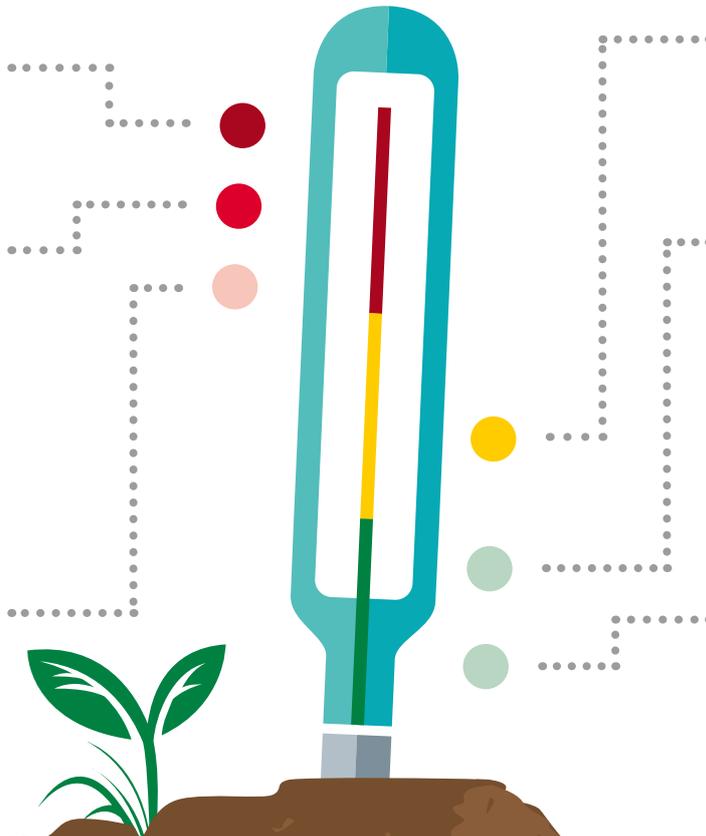
## COMAGRI

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**SPACE FOR NATURE:**  
Deletion of ecological focus areas within the conditionality.

**MONEY FOR NATURE:**  
Mandatory eco-schemes with low ring-fencing, which includes GAECs that were part of conditionality within EC proposal. Inclusion of ANC payments within environmental ring-fencing in 2nd pillar. No dedicated money for biodiversity.

**TRANSFORMATION:**  
Ringfencing of large part pillar 1 for direct payments, higher share for coupled support. No phase-out of direct payments.



**TRANSFORMATION:**  
No specific phase-out, but higher focus on environmental spending will lead to lower direct payments. Yet transition support for farmers is missing.

**MONEY FOR NATURE:**  
Dedicated funds for biodiversity within second pillar, based on needs identified within the PAFs. High ring-fencing for eco-schemes and shift of ANC-payments to first pillar. Yet biodiversity ringfencing missing within 1st pillar and reference to EU-wide identified financial need of 15bn/year only as non-binding recital.

**SPACE FOR NATURE:**  
Obligation within conditionality to have 7% of agricultural land as non-productive areas and landscape features.

## The current CAP proposal needs to change significantly!

**BirdLife:** Restart of the CAP debate within the parliament mustn't be again a wasted opportunity for biodiversity

In order to address the environmental failures of Europe's food and farming system, to ensure sustainable land use in the next decade and to justify the continued existence of EU funding to farmers in general, the negotiations on the next Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) have to change the European Commission's proposal significantly - unless the new Commission decides to rework it itself. The agriculture committee has decided to bring the decision to plenary in the coming months, before which further discussions on committee level and possible negotiations with the environment committee will take place. The new report by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) contains a comparative analysis of the existing reports of the two committees on the CAP. It shows clearly that the environment committee's amendments to the Commission proposal, while not sufficient, are a significant step forwards towards a sustainable transformation of the CAP. On the other side the Agriculture Committee clearly falls behind and their report is littered with attempts to further weaken down the environmental elements of the CAP post 2020.

## **THE CURRENT CAP PROPOSAL NEEDS TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY!**

The position of the environment committee is clearly the more preferable one. It provides a coherent package for the green architecture and is a basis on which the final position of the European Parliament can be built on. Yet from a biodiversity perspective the incorporation of the following items into the final plenary position is essential from a biodiversity perspective:

### **SPACE FOR NATURE: 10 % of non-productive areas and landscape feature as part of the „enhanced conditionality“.**

As a precondition for any EU funding a minimum area of 10 percent of every farm has to be kept non-productive, or taken out of production, and must be left as set-aside or managed exclusively for biodiversity. Only that way a minimum green infrastructure can be ensured across the agricultural landscape that is needed to provide insects and other animals with food, shelter and breeding grounds. After a transition phase in which direct payments should be phased out, this has to become a legally binding requirement.

### **MONEY FOR NATURE: Legally binding ring-fencing of 15bn/year EUR across both pillars of the CAP for biodiversity incentives and investments.**

To achieve the EU's biodiversity objectives the CAP has to provide annually EUR 15billion in the form of non-productive investment support and income related incentives, so that farmers and other land users are rewarded for biodiversity measures on top of conditionality and legal baseline. To ensure adequate quantity and quality of spending the European Commission has to ensure consistency of Member States' CAP Strategic Plans with their own Prioritized Action Frameworks (PAFs) in line with Art.8 of the EU Habitats Directive. The provision of a meaningful PAF, developed by the Member States nature conservation authorities, has to be a legally binding requirement for the approval of the Member States Strategic Plan by the European Commission.

### **TRANSFORMATION: Turning the CAP into a modern sustainable food and land use policy.**

Direct payments (of „Pillar I“ of the CAP) have proven to be economically inefficient, socially unfair and environmentally harmful. They must be phased-out, at the latest by 2027. While EUR 15billion per year should be dedicated for attractive and income-generating incentives in the area of biodiversity (see above), the rest should be used for sustainable rural development and transition support to the farming sector. A “Transformation Fund” should provide farmers with grants and incentives to bring agricultural practice in line with growing demand in areas such as pesticides, fertilisation, emissions and animal welfare, with support to switch to organic farming, to improve marketing through shorter food chains, to increase demand of public bodies for nature and climate friendly food, and to reduce food waste.

In order to achieve this, the Commission's proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework has to be changed so that it no longer cuts „Pillar II“ over proportionally compared to „Pillar I“, whilst immediately starting the phasing-out of “Pillar I”.

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