

The present and future of the CAP from French perspective

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The Common Agricultural Policy is still one of the major common policies of the European Union taking into account its financial sources. It allocates more than 30% of the common budget, meaning more than 60 billion euro a year in the present programming period. Based on its initial and unchanged objectives set down in Paragraph 39 of the Treaty of Rome (to increase production and productivity; to provide fair standard of living, to set up stable market for agricultural products; to guarantee food supplies and fair food prices for the consumers), it plays fundamental role in the European agricultural sector. It is clear that the CAP will have to continue to adapt in order to meet the various challenges. Indeed, this evolution will enable the EU to better reach its objectives while reducing the administrative aspect that slow it down.

France was one of the found members of the European Community and it has the largest agricultural sector in the EU, therefore it has high impact on the present and future of the CAP. France is the largest producer of the Union, although only third on exporters list after the Netherlands and Germany. On the other hand, France is the largest beneficiary of the CAP, but despite of this fact, the country is net financial contributor of the system. In the light of the latest communication of the Commission, it is an important question whether it meets French farmers' expectations. The future of this high level support is quite insecure which requires even more competitiveness actions from every agricultural producer. It is strengthened by the Brexit where CAP related losses (UK is net contributor of the system) will be higher than gains (end of UK rebate).

The paper would like to give a detailed overview of the French agriculture and to give systematic analysis on this basis. Will future CAP be more or less in favour of France?