



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

CAP Post 2020 Consultative Committee

Thursday 27 February 2020

EU Division
27 February 2020



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CAP Post 2020 Consultative Committee Progress Report

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The Committee provides a forum to allow stakeholders express their views and remain updated as the CAP reform discussions progress. The Committee met five times over the period May - December 2019. Over the course of the meetings all nine specific objectives for the CAP Post-2020 were considered.





Meeting Dates	Objectives Covered	Other items covered
29 May 2019	Overview of the process	Overall Stakeholders views/ priorities
11 July 2019	CAP objective 4, 5 & 6	Overview of entitlements under the current CAP (objective 1).
04 September 2019	CAP objective 1	Overview of entitlements under the CAP draft proposals (objective 1).
07 November 2019	CAP objective 7 & 8	Update on external consultation to date.
06 December 2019	CAP objective 2, 3 & 9	The process of developing the CAP Strategic Plan and the publication of transitional measures.

Progress of discussions at EU level was discussed at all meetings.

All presentations and meeting minutes are available on the Departments website

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/aboutus/regulationoflobbying/groupscommitteesexemptedunderthetransparencycode/cappost2020consultativecommittee/>

Meeting 29 May 2019

Overview

EU Division gave a presentation outlining the CAP Reform - Process and Proposals.

Stakeholders outlined their priorities across a range of issues including:

- Agri-environmental ambition and schemes
- Bio-diversity
- BDGP scheme
- The CAP budget
- Climate change
- Convergence
- CMO market support measures and crisis/risk management
- Definition of an active/genuine farmer
- Importing of grain/animal feed
- Intensive dairy farming
- Knowledge innovation (AKIS)
- Mercosur
- Origin Green
- Young farmers/generational renewal
- Simplification
- Support for locally lead schemes such as EIP's.
- Protection of farm incomes/sustainability of the family farm.





Meeting: 11 July 2019

The agenda covered the environmental aspects of CAP reform (objectives 4, 5 and 6)

- Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy
- Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air
- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes

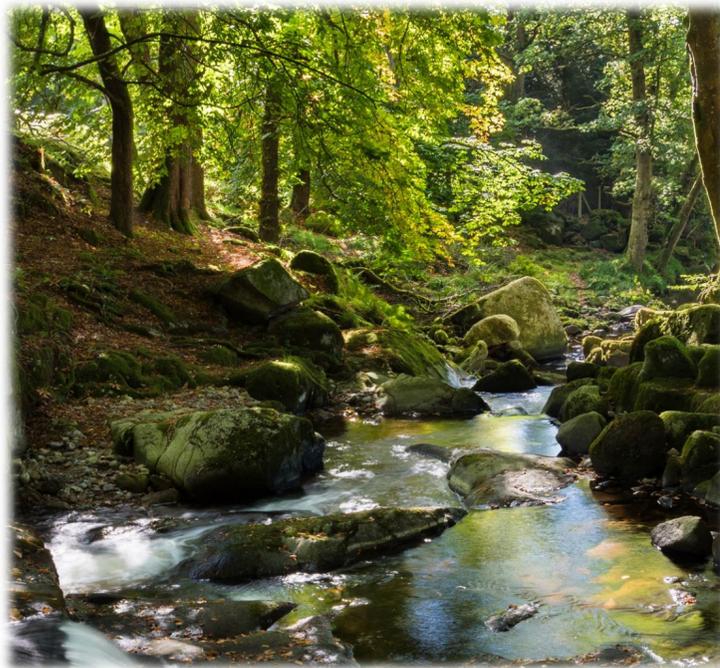
In addition, an overview of entitlements under the current CAP (objective 1) was presented with a view to further discussions on this at the next meeting.





Issues raised included:

- Access to credit and taxation measures for young farmers
- Bovine expansion and planning applications in milk and cheese processing
- Dairy price volatility
- Crop rotation
- Forestry sequestration of carbon
- GLAS scheme
- The MACC curve, particularly around climate change mitigation
- Training of agricultural advisors and a whole farm (result based system) approach to environmental issues



Meeting: 04 September 2019



The meeting looked at Modelling based on the CAP draft proposals for direct payments Post 2020 (objective 1) and the Public Consultation on the SWOT for the CAP Strategic Plan.

Issues raised included:

- Agro forestry
- Diversification – more tillage, rising demand for plant based food – need to be more self sufficient
- Eco schemes – concerns that this could impact on agri-environmental schemes
- Increase in beef and dairy production
- Young farmer – the need for a succession plan
- Sectoral interventions





Meeting: 07 November 2019

The meeting covered objectives 7 and 8

- Attract Young Farmers and facilitation of business development in rural areas and to
- Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry.

Issues raised included:

- The definition of the young farmer
- The 5-year rule
- Income support measures
- Tax incentives
- Old/young collaborative arrangements
- Off farm employment





External Consultation

The Chair discussed some of the key issues that arose at the recent public meetings and stakeholders workshop:



- Convergence
- Climate change
- Carbon efficient farming
- Generational renewal
- Low income in some sectors
- The environmental impact by agriculture
- Renewable energy

The issues will be reflected in the SWOT analysis.



Meeting: 06 December 2019

The meeting covered the CAP objectives 2, 3 & 9

- Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation.
- Improve the Farmers' position in the value chain.
- Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.

Next Steps for the Committee

The Chair discussed intervention logic and the next steps which will include bilateral engagement with Government Departments and Agencies to ensure overall policy coherence. CAP Rural Development Division are currently revising the SWOT analysis; it is hoped to have the revised quadrants ready for circulation with the background papers in January 2020.

When the SWOT is finalised, the next step will be to develop the Needs Assessment.





Summary of Stakeholders views expressed at the Committee meetings

Cap Budget/Distribution of Payments:

Stakeholders felt there is a higher ambition while the budget is being cut. It was acknowledged the CAP budget cannot achieve everything. The Climate Action Plan requires a separate fund. The CAP budget has its limitations and a wider integrated approach across other Departments is needed.

Fairness in the distribution of payments is important. High entitlement unit values don't necessarily equate to high payments. Convergence should not create more unviable farms. Commonality across Member States is crucial. CAP has delivered cheap food but it has failed in terms of farm income.

Active/Genuine Farmer:

Stakeholders feel CAP should focus on supporting those actively involved in producing food and /or public goods.

Generational renewal/Young Farmers:

Young farmers up to 40 years of age should benefit from CAP support. The CAP should continue to support young farmers and CAP should drive land mobility for Young Farmers. Young Farmers are very willing to engage in results based environmental schemes if there is a win-win for the farmer and the environment. It was suggested the need for other instruments in addition to CAP e.g. use of taxation measures – access to credit for young farmers and financial instruments need to be introduced. There were calls for Old/Young collaborative arrangements to be facilitated, possibly through a scheme focused on generational renewal.

Producer Organisations/Sectoral interventions

The benefits of producer organisations were recognised and there was a view that they offer significant potential, however, some participants questioned whether the funds would be better spent on other measures.



Bio-diversity/Climate Change and the Environmental impact by agriculture:

Water, climate and bio diversity trends coupled with, Intensification in certain agriculture sectors is seen as a major concern.

Biodiversity must be an integral part of agricultural policy. There is a need to focus on agri-diversity and consider the risks associated with our dependence on the bovine industry and imported feed. More support needed for the tillage and horticulture sectors.

A number of stakeholders outlined the environmental benefits of Organic farming and the demand for organic produce.

The need to raise awareness of environmental issues and achieve buy-in from farmers was highlighted. Inconsistencies regarding Land eligibility rules need to be addressed. The role played by EIP's was welcomed. The opt-in opt-out option for eco-scheme is a concern.

Whole farm approach

Sustainability and agri production need to go hand in hand. Stakeholders outlined support for a whole farm plan approach with strategies in place to target certain areas.

SWOT analysis process

Concerns were raised about the CAP SWOT analysis in terms of the draft regulations and insufficient level of engagement with the public during the consultation process. The Department asserted that it is taking an open and transparent approach to this consultation process.



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Working draft of the SWOT & analysis for Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan

CAP Strategic Plan

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