



# The EU's CAP: Now and Beyond

The role of the agricultural sector has been so important for Europe and for the lives of European citizens that a large percentage (around 40%) of the whole EU budget goes towards its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Around €40 million is paid to farmers in the form of direct subsidies. Yet, in recent years, these figures started to decrease and some critics argue that the CAP has become unbalanced.

In a recent Eurobarometer survey, an overwhelming 90 per cent of EU consumers considered agriculture and rural areas as important factors for the future. Most of the 27,000 EU citizens interviewed, revealed that they are still in favour of maintaining the CAP and the support it offers to European farmers.

In view of the CAP's reform, due by 2013, a public consultation on the CAP's future has been undertaken, to prepare the policy paper setting out different options for the future of the policy. The European Commission is

expected to present legal proposals in 2011.

On June 14, MEUSAC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs and with Permaculture Research Foundation, will be hosting a National Conference entitled EU's CAP: Now and Beyond. This event will serve to bring together agriculturalists, agricultural cooperatives, farmers, students, experts on EU policy and agriculture as well as the general public to get an insight into what the CAP debate has been focusing on and what is being envisaged for the years to come.

The EU considers that the policy is more than just a policy for farmers; it is a policy for everyone, since everyone consumes fruit, vegetables and meats. Reflecting the idea of the broad public debate on CAP post-2013, everyone's ideas matter.

MEUSAC looks forward to your participation at this conference! More information on this event can be accessed on [www.meusac.gov.mt](http://www.meusac.gov.mt).



**Malta-EU Steering  
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