



Independent network  
on European Agricultural  
and Rural development policies



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studi e ricerche di economia e di politica agraria



learning and discussing the  
Common Agricultural Policy

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# PUBLIC DEBATE

## Food security and food quality in the context of the new CAP

### Programme

- 16h30: Welcome and introduction by Mr. Arie van den Brand, president of the Groupe de Bruges
- The international perspective:
  - Miss **Gerda Verburg**, chairperson of the World Committee on Food Security
- The urban perspective:
  - Miss **Marta Leonori**, member of the City Council of Rome and responsible for the city's food policy
  - Mr. **Maurizio Mariani**, director of Risteco and of the global Eating City project
- The rural perspective:
  - Mr. **Matteo Bartolini**, president of CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers
- Academic reflection:
  - Prof. **Franco Sotte**, director of Agiregionieuropa, Università Politecnica delle Marche
- Discussion
- Announcement and prize ceremony European CAP Game competition
- 19h00: Closure of meeting

### Where and When

The public debate will take place on Wednesday, March 18th from 16h30 to 19h00 at **INEA, Via Nomentana 41, Rome, Italy.**

### Join the debate

To take part in the e-debate, interested participants have to sign up to the Eventbrite here:

<http://bit.ly/PACdebate>.

## Background

Food security is one of the main objectives of the CAP. In a global context in which on the one hand the world population is both increasing and ageing, over half of the people live in cities and on the other hand the world is facing a number of serious environmental challenges (e.g. climate change, water quantity and quality, soil quality, loss of bio diversity). On top of that agricultural productivity is lagging behind, making food security a top priority over the last years.

But it is not only about food security in the sense that agricultural needs to provide sufficient calories. The food that come to the table of the consumer also has to be of the highest safety standards. Although over the last decades Europe has suffered from a number of food safety related incidents, food products have never been safer than they are today. Europe, both through its policies and its control body (EFSA) is playing a big part in ensuring food safety.

Connected to this is also the issue of food quality. A number of topics are related to this:

- The nutritional value of food products in connection to public health issues
- The access to affordable, nutritious food for poor people in urban areas
- The diversity of food systems and culinary traditions across Europe, in particular with reference to the preservation of local products (PDO, PGI, GTS indications).

The Reformed CAP in particular is also addressing these issues in a number of ways through both the First and Second Pillar.

## Objectives

We want to use this event to explain to the public the role of the CAP in addressing these issues. We want to do this from three perspectives:

- International perspective: CAP and international trade agreements (WTO, RTA's), the role of the UN (FAO) in food security, food exports and imports (LDC policy), international food quality standards (Codex Alimentarius)
- Urban perspective: recently a number of Europe's major cities have taken initiatives to come to an Urban Food Policy (New York, London, Paris, Amsterdam) to ensure that their population will have access to affordable food that is safe, nutritious and of high quality. Other cities, like Rome, are currently developing such a strategy. They are part of a global movement in which more and more city councils take on an active role to provide and ensure food security and food access. Sustainability and local sourcing are often an integrated part of these policies. Special attention is given to children and to poor people.
- Rural perspective: the rich diversity in Europe's geography, climate, history and culture has resulted in an enormous variety of special, local products. Since 1992 Europe is committed to protect and support these local food products and their supply chains. This is also expressed in the Reformed CAP in which several measures are included to this aim.

The fourth and last event will have as additional item on the programme the announcement of the three winners of the CAP game competition "Can EU CAP it".

From the persons that in the period November 2014 – February 2015 have played the game as part of the European competition the three players with the highest scores will be selected and invited to the public debate session. They will each receive an award (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

## Target audience

The seminar targets mainly people professionally engaged in food security, food quality and food policy: farmers, representatives of farmers organisations, global, European, national, regional and local authorities, NGOs, extension workers, researchers and students.

## More Information

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