

COLDIRETTI



Rome, 10th of February 2012

COMMON STATEMENT

A Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) favourable to economic growth

The President of the Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti, Sergio Marini and the President of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales (NFU), Peter Kendall met on the 10th of February 2012 in Rome for bilateral talks on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

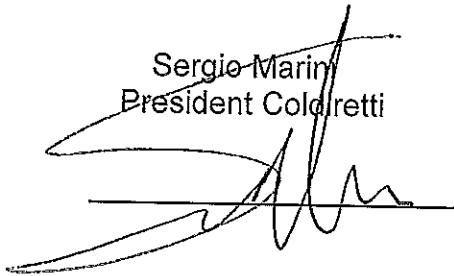
Taking into consideration the proposals of the European Commission regarding the maintenance of the CAP budget during the period 2014-2020 and proposals on the future of the CAP, the two organisations intend to follow carefully the development of negotiations at a European level. They would like to draw attention in particular to the following:

- the future CAP should support the economic role of agriculture and the strategic role of farmers as food producers in order to help meet the goals of the agricultural G20 concerning food security and consumer traceability;
- convergence between the Member States must be based on objective, non-discriminatory criteria;
- the convergence process in each Member State should allow sufficient time and maximum flexibility in order to allow productive areas to adapt gradually to new circumstances;
- the definition of an "active" farmer should allow for national specificities and not cause further administrative complexity;
- any measures to green the CAP should not undermine the need for European agriculture to be competitive and to maintain levels of production. The current proposals must be reviewed in a common framework taking into account both eligible measures and financial considerations;
- in some duly justified cases, a certain flexibility should allow Member States to grant support targeted at specific sectors;

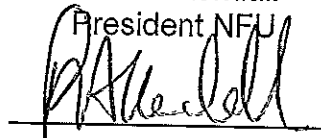
- the market management tools proposed by the Commission must be developed to create a real safety net capable of dealing, in an efficient and effective way, with crises resulting from volatile prices on agricultural markets.
- the European Commission proposals on producers' organisations and on supply chains is a step that should lead to a real evolution of European competition law to ensure the potential effectiveness of these provisions;
- the proposed policy on rural development offers new opportunities to strengthen the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. It should be ensured that farmers are the main beneficiaries. Parallel to the reform of the CAP, the European Union should make genuine progress towards a supply chain that operates more fairly for the producer and prevents abuses of power. The functioning of the food supply chain needs to be improved by reducing the number of the intermediaries and developing conditions for short food chain systems managed by farmers;
- special attention should be given to helping young farmers and growers, particularly with regard to access to land, innovation, modernisation and investment.

The two organisations hope that both the Agriculture Council and the European Parliament will make the necessary adjustments to the European Commission proposals in order to maintain and develop a competitive agriculture which occupies its rightful place in Europe.

Sergio Marin
President Coldiretti

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Marin', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Kendall
President NFU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Kendall', written over a horizontal line.