

Model European Parliament 2nd Mediterranean Regional Session Athens 5-10 October 2018

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

Dear delegates,

The second Euro Mediterranean Regional session in Athens is approaching and it is time you started preparing yourselves for this beautiful experience. For this reason, we, your CPs, wanted to give you some useful tips for your preparation.

Our topic addresses the issue of agriculture and rural development, which was initiated by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that was established in 1962. Within the Union live some 12 million citizens who practise farming as a full-time job. The Union's agricultural policy aims at ensuring a decent standard of living for farmers and at providing a safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers, both within the EU and developing countries. CAP's priorities include viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and balanced development of rural areas throughout the EU¹. CAP is divided into two pillars: direct payments and rural development.

In 1983 the CAP received 73% of the EU budget, but under the current financial framework (2014 – 2020) it receives 39%. Notwithstanding the numerous modifications to CAP over the years, it still has an important place in our economy. Your in-depth research into our committee issue should help you answer whether it would be wise to reduce CAP's budget, which has an annual budget of € 59 billion, or not. You should also find ways to promote a competitive and sustainable agricultural policy.

We suggest that you not only study these pages but also search on your own for any interesting project. You need to become familiar with the agricultural and rural situation in Europe by reading articles, watching videos and looking for dedicated websites.

As a last step in your preparation for the session, you are strongly advised to compose a position paper (1-2 pages in a word document) which will be presented during the first committee meeting. It will include:

- Your country's position on the issue
- Some of your proposed solutions
- Some key facts from your research

Your CPs,

Giacomo Cammarano
Panayiotis Georgiou
Kyriaki Pantazi
Vassilis Markopoulos

¹ European Commission: Press Release Database. 2013. Last accessed 05/27/2018. Retrieved from http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-13-631_en.htm

Useful links

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/agriculture/intro>

An intro to agriculture by the European Environment Agency (EEA), which focuses on the position of the farmer in our economy and society

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview_en

CAP in a nutshell

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-631_en.htm

FAQ on the Common Agricultural Policy

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/jun/26/eu.politics1?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Criticism on the CAP

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-proposes-annual-reduction-direct-payments-finance-crisis-reserve-2017-mar-31_en

Reductions on the CAP budget

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir_en

On the right of this page, you will find many sections on the ‘Agriculture and Environment’ topic.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:32013D1386>

A summary of the EAP legislation

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/the-future-of-the-common-agricultural-policy-cap/44559/>

The future of the CAP

https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/agriculture_en

Goals of CAP and future challenges

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/policy-perspectives/policy-briefs/05_en.pdf

An overview of CAP Reform 2014-2020

Here there are some videos:

https://www.ted.com/talks/louise_fresco_on_feeding_the_whole_world?utm_campaign=tedsbread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

TED video on agriculture science

<https://youtu.be/ranzxkS8fbU>

A European Commission video on CAP

<https://youtu.be/hv1VJUj8tQ>

‘Why do we need agricultural policy in EU?’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCWqA7DktgA>

Agriculture in our future

<https://youtu.be/WhOrIUlnPo>

Organic farming