

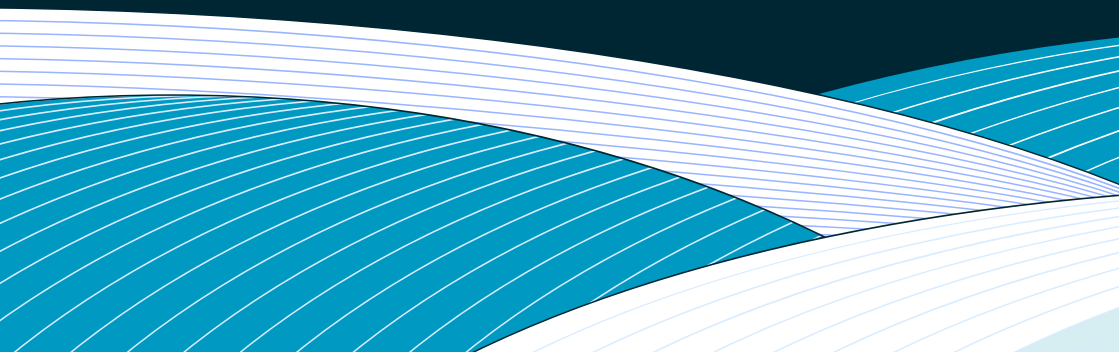
Fields of Freedom: a Liberal Vision on the Common Agricultural Policy





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Introduction

Following the previous editions in 2022 and 2023, the **European Liberal Forum (ELF)** with the support of the **European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)** and our Macedonian partner **Liberal Democratic Youth of North Macedonia (Lidem)** organised the **“Liberal Hack 2024”**, this time focusing on the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**. A hackathon is an event with a capped time frame, typically between 24 and 48 h, in which teams of professionals intensively cooperate on innovative projects. In the case of our hackathon, which was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, in June 2024, our participants were given 24 h. Politically active young individuals, such as students and young professionals, gathered and committed to the development of concrete liberal policies that benefit the European Union (EU) as a whole.

The Liberal Hack 2024 centered on the enhancement of the CAP of the EU to address its mounting importance in the context of ongoing challenges such as the EU enlargement, climate change, population growth, and urbanisation. The location of Skopje, North Macedonia, proved to be an inspiring one, especially given these challenges. Identifying the presence of substantial expertise and interest in the CAP outside the EU was encouraging. The sessions opened the participants' eyes to the diverse viewpoints and expertise noted across Europe, which emphasised the relevance of the CAP beyond the current borders of the EU.

Teams of three addressed five key focus areas within the CAP, namely, **Biodiversity and Farmed Landscapes; Increasing EU Farm Productivity; Jobs and Growth in Rural Areas; Agriculture, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, and Financing the CAP**. These topics are crucial, because the CAP must adapt to a rapidly changing environment and meet the needs of a growing population while ensuring that rural communities remain vibrant and economically viable in the face of increasing urbanisation.

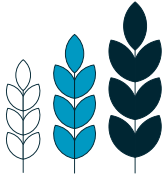
The event challenged young liberals to generate innovative and actionable ideas to modernise the CAP, support sustainable agricultural practices, improve food security, and foster rural development. The hackathon aimed to empower participants to

actively contribute to the formation of the future of the EU agricultural policy by driving meaningful reforms that can enhance resilience and sustainability across Europe.

The hackathon consisted of both expert sessions and hacking time. During the sessions, the participants gained insights into the technicalities of the CAP regarding the five topics presented. They also attended a workshop on compelling techniques to pitch their projects to stakeholders. After these sessions, the five groups presented their work to the jury composed of **Jovan Stojanovski**, Former Head of Cabinet for the Minister of Agriculture of North Macedonia, **Andrea Ugrinoska**, Former Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth at the CoE, and **Dimitra Papadopoulos**, LYMEC Communications Officer. The groups presented innovative solutions, succeeded in following the guidelines, and correctly interpreted the objective of the hackathon by designing actionable, coherent, innovative, and liberal policy proposals to address their selected challenges.

The subsequent pages present the five projects and corresponding policy proposals of the groups.





Group: Biodiversity and Farmed Landscapes

Group Members:

Sabrina Steinberga (Ógra Fianna Fáil, Ireland)

Martin Horný (Young Progressive Slovakia, Slovakia)

Nonna Joesse (Jonge Democraten, The Netherlands)

AgriPreneurs: Growing and Redefining the Future of Sustainable Farming Through Biodiversity

Background

Our proposal aims to redefine the role and perception of farmers in modern society. In the EU, approximately 40% of land is classified as farmland. In the past few decades, farmers have faced immense pressure, criticism, and lack of support from society, which contribute to unsustainable practices such as monoculture. Farms have increasingly been viewed as *production houses* with little recognition of their essential function in sustaining the environment and society. This view has led to the deterioration of natural landscapes, soil depletion, and overall biodiversity. The policy seeks to revitalise farmed landscapes and decrease biodiversity loss while transforming the public perception of farming. By introducing the idea of *agripreneurs*, the policy intends to change the position of farmers in society, such that they will be regarded as key players in environmental stewardship and in the sustainability of landscapes for future generations.

Scope

Over the years, the pillars of the CAP have focused on food production and increased productivity. In addition, farmers have been regarded as being mere *producers* instead of as *land managers*. However, introducing the new perspective of farmers as *land managers* and *agripreneurs* would re-establish their position in society and give them back autonomy. Essentially, the role of farmers is to protect biodiversity, enhance soil quality, preserve culture, manage water, restore rural ecosystems, create safe and beautiful places in which to live, and improve the natural landscape and not only produce food. Evidently, the mindset needs to be shifted toward understanding the importance of farmers and point the path toward the integration of food production into the social and environmental aspects regarded as *landscape*.

farming. Ultimately, many strategies can be used to produce food and preserve local gastronomy, while creating job opportunities in rural areas, expanding networks, and helping the agricultural systems of countries adapt to warmer climates in the present and the future.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders in this proposal are as follows:

- **Farmers and farmer cooperatives:** Farmers or *agripreneurs* need to be engaged with our policy, because they are the major stakeholders that we intend to help and support.
- **Agri-tourism organisations/NGOs:** Supporting organisations like NGOs or agri-tourism associations/companies, need to be considered to accommodate agripreneurs.
- **European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF):** This EU committee is an example of existing EU organisations. The Executive Committee is composed of the Executive Board (elected by the General Assembly of the EURAF) and the National Delegates (elected by the national associations that are members of EURAF).

Main Provisions

- **True cost pricing:** The market price needs to reflect the environmental and social costs of production (including internalising costs related to biodiversity loss, carbon emissions, and soil degradation).
- **Decentralised, farmer-led sustainability initiatives:** In addition to considering agricultural practices, such as agroecology and agroforestry, as alternatives and investing in scaling up, focusing on different incomes for farmers such as agritourism. The key is to provide autonomy to farmers during decision-making and to support them in new endeavors.
- **Inclusion of urban farming in the CAP:** Urban farming has proven to be an effective strategy for boosting biodiversity, which enhances climate resilience and fosters strong social connections within communities.

Implementation Roadmap

- **Phase 1: Make farmers the experts. Collaborate with farmer cooperatives, researchers, and NGOs** to collect best practices. Support and educate farmers about changing new perceptions that redefine their role in the agricultural ecosystem.
- **Phase 2: Facilitate “agripreneurship”.** Through liberalisation policies and development of targeted policies to stimulate farmer-led initiatives, the position of farmers in the food chain can be strengthened by protecting them from powerful actors such as supermarkets, fertilisers, and seed suppliers. One strategy could be to limit the influence of large monopolies/multinationals and promote competition among non farming actors in the food chain.
- **Phase 3: Use funds to invest in agripreneurship.** Investing in the development of healthy, sustainable farm enterprises is essential. Funds and subsidies from the CAP policy should target sustainable practices such as greening and biodiversity incentives. However, more freedom for farmers should be incorporated in the CAP given that they comply with targets.
- **Phase 4: Reduce income-based subsidies** and strive toward true pricing.

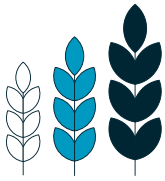
Liberal approach

In advocating for these policies, remaining aligned with our core liberal values is critical. Upon the implementation of these policies, ensuring that they are equitable and effective is important. The proposed policies are firmly rooted in the principles of liberalism, including freedom, autonomy, and personal responsibility. By incorporating market-based mechanisms, such as true cost pricing, we uphold free-market ideals while addressing critical environmental issues.

Impact

The main impact of the policy is to redefine the agricultural sector, which highlights the future perspective of farmers and views them as agripreneurs. This shift not only attracts a new generation of young farmers but also fosters the growth of vibrant rural communities. Moreover, the promotion of urban farming enriches urban cities while connecting urban and rural areas, which creates an integrated and diverse agricultural landscape.





Group: Increasing EU Farm Productivity

Group Members:

Amy Weatherald (Liberal Democrats, United Kingdom)

Nadiia Varzhel (Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Ukraine)

Maria Wall (Ógra Fianna Fáil, Ireland)

Production-Based Bonuses in Addition to Basic Income Support for Sustainability(BISS) to Further Incentivise Sustainable Production

Background

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, by 2050, we will need to produce **60% more food** to sustain a global population of **9.3 billion**. The agricultural sector faces the challenge of increasing food production while ensuring environmental and social sustainability.

The **CAP** for 2021–2027 allocates **€386.6 billion**, which accounts for **31.95%** of the budget of the EU. The initial goals of the CAP focused on boosting farm productivity and ensuring stable food supplies. However, it has reformed over the years in the context of climate change, sustainability, and technological advancement. Now, CAP must balance between productivity with environmental stewardship, which empowers farmers in a competitive global market.

Scope

For this report, farm productivity will be measured as **€/ha**, which recognises that **91.1%** of the agricultural output of the EU consists of crops and animals. Without clear **financial incentives**, the adoption of new technologies remains limited, especially due to high initial costs.

Our **financial incentive strategy** is designed to reward farmers who enhance productivity by providing bonuses that enable them to invest in technologies that further improve productivity. This scheme creates a reinvestment cycle, which increases output and stimulates innovation in agricultural technologies, particularly in precision agriculture, soil health, and genetic advancement.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders in this proposal are as follows:

- **Farm managers:** The primary beneficiaries responsible for adopting precision agriculture technologies and reinvesting profits into operations.
- **Agribusiness and technology firms:** They are essential partners in providing accessible precision agriculture solutions, which fosters a competitive environment that drives innovation.
- **Members of the European Parliament:** They are vital in promoting and forming necessary policy changes at the EU level.
- **Taxpayers:** As contributors to the CAP budget, they expect accountability and efficient resource use.
- **Accession countries:** Nations that benefit from EU accession financing can pilot these proposals to ease their integration into the EU agricultural market.

Major Provisions

Bonus on BISS: This provision introduces a **bonus** for farmers who engage in environmentally friendly practices while maximising production. It includes financial bonuses for the implementation of precision agriculture techniques that reduce environmental footprints and increase productivity per hectare.

An assessment framework will evaluate productivity practices and reward farms that engage in **good agricultural practices** with additional income support. This scheme incentivises farmers to prioritise sustainability while ensuring economic viability.

Implementation Roadmap

- **Pilot phase (2024–2026):** Initiate pilot projects in **3–5 member states**, each from different climate regions of the EU, to test the voluntary adoption of the bonus and infrastructure reinvestment schemes across types of farming. These pilots will collect data on productivity increases, environmental impacts, and farmer participation, to provide insights into the adoption rates of precision agriculture.

- **Data collection and feedback (2026–2027):** Collect feedback from stakeholders, including farmers and agribusiness partners, to refine policy recommendations and address barriers to broader adoption. These data will enhance the effectiveness of financial incentives in driving productivity.
- **EU-wide rollout (CAP 2028–2032):** Following the successful pilots, the program will expand across the EU, which will enable member states to tailor policies to specific regional needs. The focus will be on the deployment of precision agriculture and soil management techniques to boost productivity.

Liberal approach

The proposed policy reflects liberal principles by emphasising the following points:

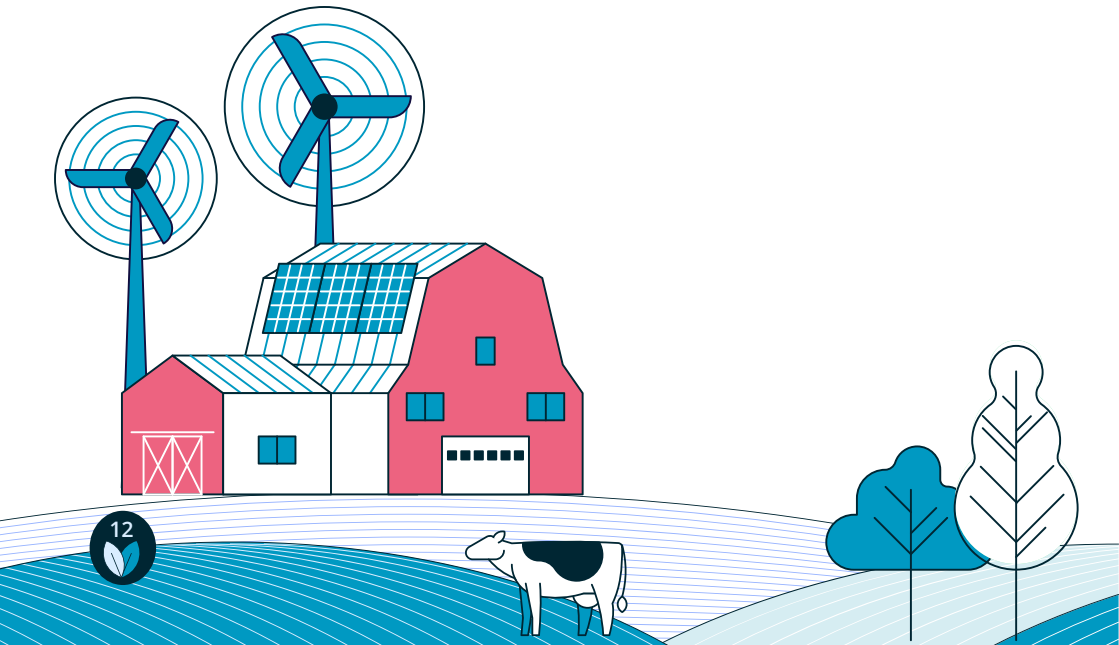
- **Voluntary participation:** Farmers retain autonomy in deciding whether or not to engage based on their preferences and needs.
- **Flexible reinvestment:** Farmers hold the freedom to reinvest bonuses in technologies that best suit their operational requirements.
- **Public–private partnerships:** The policy encourages collaboration between farmers and technology providers in the private sector, which promotes innovation and decreases barriers to adoption.
- **Deregulation of innovation:** By omitting unnecessary financial and regulatory barriers, the proposal facilitates the adoption of new technologies, particularly in precision agriculture and sustainable practices.

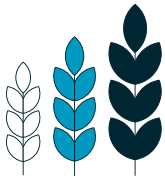
Impact

The primary impact of the policy focuses on the significant increase in agricultural productivity across the EU while promoting environmental sustainability. The key outcomes are as follows:

- **Increased resource efficiency:** Precision agriculture will optimise input use, reduce waste, and improve environmental outcomes.
- **Higher yields:** Supported by financial incentives, data-driven practices will optimise planting and harvesting cycles, which will result in higher yields per hectare.

- **Long-term economic viability:** Reinvestment bonuses will enable farmers to maintain profitability while continuously improving productivity through advanced technologies.
- **Sustainable growth:** The policy aligns productivity with sustainability, which supports the climate and environmental goals of the EU while maintaining competitiveness in global agricultural markets.





Group: Agriculture, Climate Adaptation, and Mitigation

Group Members:

Ona Miró (Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Catalonia)

Maija Kymäläinen (Finnish Centre Youth, Finland)

Evelina Dannert (Centerstudenter, Sweden)

Cultivating Change: Soil Data for Climate-Smart Agriculture in the CAP

Background

Climate change is impacting soil health and productivity, which are crucial to food security. Farmers across Europe face challenges in adapting to varying regional conditions and frequently lack real-time data to make informed decisions. This tendency leads to inefficient resource use, which increases greenhouse gas emissions and threatens profitability. We propose a solution: a real-time soil analysis device that helps farmers improve productivity and reduce environmental impact while aligning with an adapted CAP.

Scope

Our suggested device provides farmers with real-time data on soil health, such as moisture, nutrient level, and temperature. This knowledge enables precise decisions on irrigation, fertilisation, and crop selection, which boosts efforts toward climate adaptation and mitigation. Farmers can also receive predictive weather data through a connected app, optimising their response to climate change. Targeting small- and medium-scale European farms, this device supports regenerative farming practices by offering tailored recommendations on crop selection and resource management. It will also assist farmers in complying with the CAP, particularly its eco-schemes. We suggest CAP reforms to promote innovation and support climate-smart farming technologies. The key ideas are as follows:

- Funding for new technologies such as electric tractors, green roofs in cities, and elevated solar panels for dual-use farming.
- Encouraging biofuels, machinery co-ownership, and water collection infrastructure.

Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders in this proposal are as follows:

- **Farmers** are the primary users who benefit from real-time insights to improve soil management.
- **Agricultural cooperatives** play a key role in scaling technology adoption and providing training.
- **Government bodies** should offer financial incentives for the adoption of soil analysis tools, which aligns with the eco-schemes of the CAP.
- **Technology providers** are essential for device development and ongoing updates.
- **Research institutions** will validate the technology across climates and soils.
- **Youth Organisations and NGOs** can help promote the use of climate-smart technologies.

Main Provisions

- **Soil health monitoring requirements:** Propose an amendment to the CAP that mandates real-time monitoring of soil health on farms that receive CAP subsidies. Farmers that adopt soil analysis technologies, such as the proposed solution, would qualify for additional incentives. This scheme would promote efficient land use and resource management.
- **Climate-smart agriculture incentives:** Create a specific funding stream within the existing greening measures of the CAP to subsidise devices for soil monitoring for small- and medium-scale farms. The CAP could prioritise farmers who implement real-time soil monitoring to enhance their adaptation and mitigation strategies, which aligns with the eco-schemes of the CAP.
- **Data-driven CAP compliance:** Introduce a policy that enables farmers to use soil data to meet the environmental standards for CAP funding. For example, data on soil moisture could replace blanket regulations for water usage, which enables farmers to prove that they are using water more efficiently.

- **Public–private partnerships:** Encourage collaboration between government bodies and tech companies to provide affordable and accessible devices for soil analysis to all farmers. CAP funding should support private-sector innovation in agri-tech while ensuring accessibility for all, particularly in rural areas.
- **Regional Customisation:** Tailor CAP's environmental requirements based on regional soil data, which acknowledges that different climates require different agricultural practices. The CAP could introduce a flexible, data-driven approach to account for local soil and climate conditions, which decreases the one-size-fits-all model.

Implementation Roadmap

Year 1 (2024):

- Introduce pilot programs in key agricultural regions to test the integration of soil analysis technologies.
- Amend the CAP guidelines to include soil health as a key performance indicator for receiving environmental subsidies.
- Develop public–private partnerships among the EU, agricultural tech companies, and farmers' associations to subsidise these devices.

Year 2 (2025):

- Expand pilot programs across the EU with a focus on diverse climatic zones (e.g., Mediterranean, continental, and Nordic regions).
- Launch a dedicated CAP funding line for “Climate-Smart Agri-Tech,” which targets devices that improve soil management.
- Train farmers through agricultural cooperatives and NGOs to adopt and utilise soil analysis technology for sustainable practices.

Year 3 (2026):

- Full policy rollout: Make soil analysis a requirement for CAP eco-scheme payments in which farmers submit soil data to demonstrate compliance with climate goals (e.g., reduced water use, optimised fertiliser application).
- Implement region-specific environmental goals in CAP, which enables farmers to use soil data to meet or exceed these targets.

Year 4 (2027):

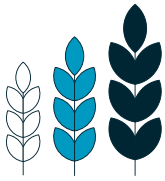
- Evaluate the impact of soil data on the environmental performance indicators of the CAP, such as reduced carbon emissions and increased biodiversity.
- Adjust CAP provisions based on the success of the soil analysis program and expand support for precision agriculture across the EU.

Liberal approach

The device promotes individual freedom by empowering farmers to make data-driven decisions, which, thus, reduces dependency on government-imposed agricultural methods. It fosters innovation and offers farmers the tools to adapt to local conditions instead of imposing one-size-fits-all policies.

Impact

- **Environmental impact:** The policy promotes the more efficient use of water and fertilisers, which lead to reduced resource waste and lower agricultural emissions. It will reduce food waste by providing efficient and accurate farming methods.
- **Economic impact:** Farmers will benefit from reduced input costs, such as water and fertilisers, while increasing crop yields. Combined with improved resilience to climate change, these savings will help keep farmers in business, which will prevent them from abandoning their land due to repeated poor harvests.
- **Social impact:** The technology will protect rural livelihoods by ensuring that farmers remain competitive in a changing climate. Furthermore, the adoption of these technologies can be shared with other developing regions, which promotes global climate resilience and enables a more sustainable agricultural future worldwide.



Group: Financing the CAP

Group Members:

Mikael Freitag (Venstres Ungdom, Denmark)

Miina-Maija Simonen (Keskustanuoret, Finland)

Emil Laanemets (Estonian Reform Party Youth, Estonia)

Generational CAP for the Future

Background

One of the main objectives of the CAP should be to boost innovation and increase productivity. Subsidies should aim to help farmers gain increased productivity and help them to promote an innovative agricultural policy. The aim is intended to promote the development and efficiency of European agriculture instead of supporting a rural lifestyle. It needs more funding into investment and efficiency and more reduction of the amount of money used to cover fixed costs. The ultimate goal is to reach a point in which subsidies are no longer required, because EU farmers have become sufficient, such that they become self-supporting.

Scope

This proposal is addressed to the basis of the direct payments of the CAP. Land-based funding does not encourage efficient production. For this reason, we are missing money. Hence, this suggestion for a new basis for direct payments of the CAP is concrete.

Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder engagement plan targets farmers, agricultural unions, government bodies, and environmental NGOs to ensure a transparent policy development. Consultation will occur from 2024 to 2025 through public forums and workshops to collect input to refine the subsidy models. Pilot programs from 2026 to 2030 will test the new criteria and collect feedback to adjust policies prior to their full implementation. A full rollout will be held between 2030 and 2040 with monitoring to ensure compliance and to support farmers during the transition. The goal is to achieve widespread awareness, collaboration with government agencies, and NGO support for sustainability efforts.

Main Provisions

- Adding to the major objective of the CAP is productivity as its own bullets such as “improve agricultural productivity and innovation.” If this is done, then the term productivity can be omitted from the statement “support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food.”
- Restructuring of agricultural subsidies, such that you obtain a lower amount of direct payment to farmers each year in the year 2040. This scheme intends to address the fact that the self-sufficiency of the agricultural sector as a whole is desirable. This policy will be in effect by 2040, which allocates approximately 15 years to farmers to innovate and restructure before the funding will be changed. In doing so, we hope that the lowest possible number will go out of business.
- Changing the basis on what the subsidies are given upon. Today, it is 100% land based, which we aim to change toward efficient measures in the future.
- The remaining money from the 27% of the EU budget should be allocated to a project fund in which farmers can apply for money for projects that can enable the efficiency and sustainability of farming. The current project could be an example.
- Buying advanced technology such as drones, satellite data, and automated systems to improve resource utilisation.
- Helping switch from meat production to farming plant-based protein sources such as peas, beans, and lentils.
- Investing in barn technologies that capture and treat emissions and implementing feeding strategies that reduce methane production from animals.
- Observing farming practices that increase the ability of the soil to store carbon such as agroforestry, perennial crops and cover crops.
- Selecting criteria for application for funds to projects, as previously mentioned, should be based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals as much as possible.



Implementation Roadmap

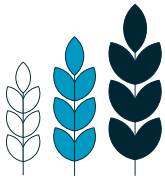
In practice, this new legislation and change in structure will work like this. By 2040, the new rules for agricultural subsidies would be in place, such that you get a lower amount of direct payment to farmers each year beginning in the year 2040. This scheme is intended to address the fact that the self-sufficiency of the agricultural sector as a whole is desirable. The objective of the legislation is to achieve 0% direct payment subsidies in the year 2150. By 2040, 50% of agricultural subsidies should be given on the basis of hectares of space, and 50% will be given according to the efficiency of farms based on various parameters as determined by the EU Commission. In 2050, this should be 75% and 25% for efficiency and the basis of hectares, respectively. In 2060, it should be 85% given for efficiency. We realise that the size of the farm cannot be taken entirely out of consideration; therefore, we come up with 85% for efficiency and 15% for land-based subsidies in 2060 onward.

Liberal approach

This proposal reflects liberal values by promoting self-sufficiency and reducing government dependency on agriculture. It will gradually phase out subsidies for older farms, which will promote innovation and competitiveness. The shift from land-based to efficiency-based subsidies encourages modern farming practices and technological adoption, which fosters a merit-based system. By linking funding to sustainable projects, it supports entrepreneurship and individual responsibility, which aligns with the liberal ideals of market-driven growth. In summary, the policy aims to create an efficient, sustainable agricultural sector with less reliance on government support and more focus on market efficiency.

Impact

These measures could lead farmers and markets to work more efficiently, because inefficient farming would not be supported. Alternatively, considering the SDGs enhances the manner in which agriculture impacts society, the environment, and climate change. The ultimate objective and impact of these acts is also to render EU farmers self-sufficient and the smartest ones in the world through technology use.



Group: Jobs and Growth in Rural Areas

Group Members:

Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals, United Kingdom)

Giacomo Arosio (LYMEC Individual Member, Italy)

Tamara Garcheska (Liberal Democratic Youth, North Macedonia)

A Rural Industrial Strategy for Europe: Accounting for Agro-Allied Industries Within the Common Agricultural Policy

Background

When considering the widespread issue of jobs and growth in rural areas, a key overarching issue is clear. Young people are forced to leave rural areas due to the lack of opportunities (in education, employment, and training) and do not return afterward due to the lack of incentives and opportunities.

This scenario can be summarised in socioeconomic terms as a high number of push factors along with a significant lack of pull factors for rural areas; in other words, many young people opt to move away. This issue is certainly not new in relation to rural areas and has long been identified as a reason for the struggle of rural communities across Europe as younger generations move into growing towns and cities.

Scope

The combined agricultural sector forms a significant part of the overall economic output of the EU, which contributed approximately €537.1 billion to the overall GDP in the EU last year. Alongside farming, many various industries exist to support the economic contribution of agriculture. These *agro-allied industries* spread across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, chemical production, food processing, healthcare, meat packing, renewable energy, and agro-tourism, among others.

The policy proposal aims to promote agro-allied industries in rural areas through the provisions of the CAP as part of the European Rural Industrial Strategy (ERIS), which addresses migratory pressure and contributes to the rural vision of the EU for 2040.

High-push and low-pull factors hinder rural economic development, which leads to poor investment and migration. This tendency affects young people, which leads to job shortage and a self-perpetuating economic downturn and forces them to leave rural areas for better opportunities.

Stakeholder Engagement

The ERIS involves a diverse range of stakeholders, including the following:

- **Agro-allied industries:** Creating economically attractive rural areas will enable local businesses to thrive and capitalise on local agriculture opportunities, increased competitiveness, greater demand, and lower prices.
- **Local communities and producers:** Any subject involved in the production of the final agricultural product, including local communities, will be advantaged by investments in rural areas.
- **Students and young people in rural areas:** Young people are going to be advantaged in the creation of start-up businesses in the agro-food sector, as well as by profiting from educational campaigns such as the Erasmus program, which decreases the necessity to pursue education or a career in urban areas.
- **Local and regional governments:** Investments in infrastructure and connectivity and their relative positive effects on population stability will benefit the local administration.

Main Provisions

The creation of the ERIS focused on three key areas:

- Expand CAP to account for the importance of agro-allied industries to the success of the farming sector and rural areas. This includes the development of a regime of tax incentives and grants to support the establishment of agro-allied industries in rural areas to promote economic development and job opportunities.
- Create provisions for supporting young workers and entrepreneurs to establish agro-allied enterprises in rural areas that are close to farms through training, apprenticeships, and start-up grants.

- Encouraging investment in local services, basic infrastructure, and renewable energy in rural areas by working with local and regional governments to ensure that rural communities perceive the benefits of increased economic activity in their areas.

Implementation Roadmap

The key to this policy initiative is the expansion of the CAP to incorporate agro-allied industries into its funding models. As such, the implementation period should allocate significant time to lobbying the EU Commission and member states to support the expansion and principle adoption of the ERIS. Research on the financial implications of such an expansion will involve consultation with business leaders, Small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs, and youth enterprise organisations, with a focus on agro-allied industries.

Afterward, working with local communities and local and regional governments will be important to ensure their buy-in and participation with the ERIS after its implementation. Ensuring the cooperation of these stakeholders from the start will be key to the success of any industrial strategy that targets rural areas within the EU. After securing political and local support for the ERIS, the launch of the strategy is crucial.

Liberal approach

The policy proposal aligns with liberal values, which aim to enhance the economy, improve living standards, and ensure equal opportunity while addressing challenges such as climate change and migration. We believe that people living in rural areas should benefit from the same economic opportunities as those in urban areas. The place of one's birth should not influence one's access to economic opportunities, which is an aspect that we seek to address through the ERIS. Furthermore, the ERIS promotes private businesses to boost the market economy, which aligns with the liberal values of individual freedom and competition and supports local industries and SMEs in rural areas.

Impact

By encouraging the establishment of agro-allied industries in rural areas, this initiative will create more jobs and enterprise opportunities for young people. Furthermore, a system of tax incentives and subsidies designed to bring secondary agricultural production to urban areas would locate these associated industries closer to farmers, which reduces business costs and improves the livelihood of farmers and their communities.

Moreover, as the lack of access to modern energy sources in the rural areas of developing countries significantly hinders economic growth and job creation, the development of renewable energy systems will generate income for producers, land rents for installations, and green jobs in various fields. Ultimately, creating attractive opportunities in rural areas will mitigate cityward migration and ultimately lessen the harmful impacts of urbanisation.



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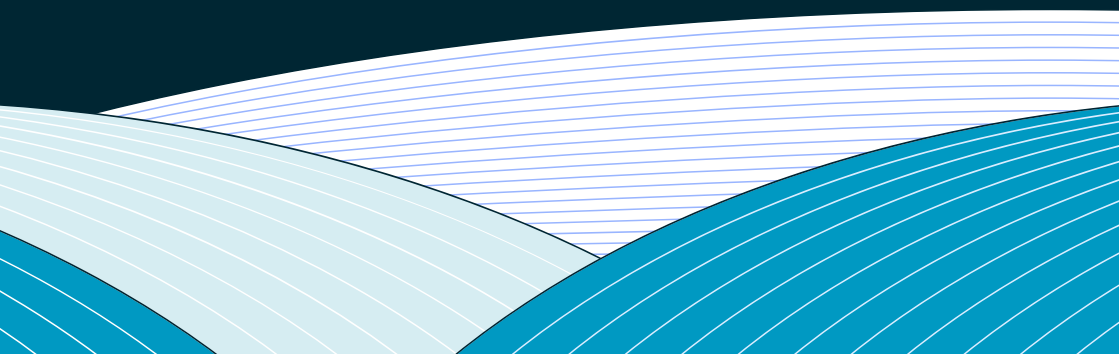
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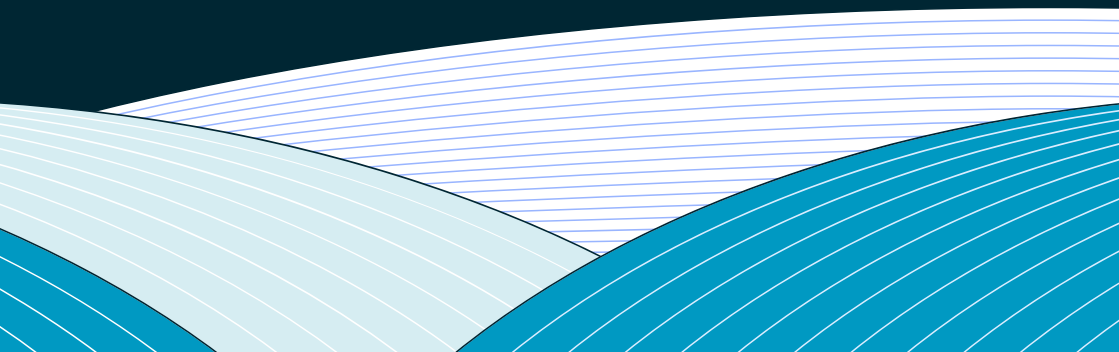


European Liberal Forum


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ELF was founded in 2017 to strengthen the liberal and democrat movement in Europe. Our work is guided by liberal ideals and belief in the principle of freedom. We stand for a future-oriented Europe that offers opportunities for every citizen.


We bring together a diverse network of national foundations, think tanks and other experts. At the same time, we are close to, but independent from, the ALDE Party and other Liberal actors in Europe. In this role, our forum serves as a space for an open and informed exchange of views between a wide range of actors.





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