

C7 Reinventing our agricultural policies.

Proposer:	Les Jeunes Ecologistes (LJE - French Young Greens)
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Text

1 Agriculture in crisis

2 In 1957, European leaders decided to start a Common Agricultural Policy to
3 commonly face challenges such as the low income of farmers, the dependence of
4 Europe from foreign production, the instability of market and the high prices of
5 food. Sixty years later, European Agriculture is once again stuck in a deep
6 systemic crisis and faces new challenges.

7 Because of the too low prices, many farmers cannot live from their production.
8 Industrial agriculture keeps on using too many chemical inputs and pesticides
9 threatening both our health, our soils and climate. Many European citizens still
10 don't have access to affordable and quality food. Animals suffer in industrial
11 breeding. Publicly supported European exports participate to the destruction of
12 farming structures in many Southern countries. Biodiversity is eroding, water is
13 polluted, soil is depleting.

14 At the same time, we can see emerging alternatives: some peasants are
15 reinventing our agriculture through agroecology, a new generation of peasants is
16 emerging, consumers are more aware and change their practices (organic food,
17 short supply chains...). These alternatives teach us that there is a possibility
18 to change the European agricultural model. These alternatives should not remain
19 a minority: there is a need of public policies to support the transition to this
20 new model.

21 Today's Common Agricultural Policy is doing the opposite: the dismantlement of
22 market regulations tools have brought a fall of prices, public aid are unequally
23 distributed (80% of the public support goes to 20% of farmers), regulations or
24 greening don't succeed in reducing the use of chemicals fertilizers nor
25 pesticides.

26 The agriculture we want

27 It is time to think of a new Common Agricultural Policy aiming:

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- the production of local, healthy, diversified and quality food for all;

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- an agriculture which respects the environment and preserves soil, water and climate;

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- an agriculture freed from false solutions such as pesticides or GMOs;

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- farmers who can live decently from their production, thanks to fair prices;

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- the development of short supply chains;

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- the promotion of small-scale farming, which creates more jobs;

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- living countrysides, the end of the rural exodus;

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- breeding which respect the basic animals rights and animals dignity;

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- the reduction of the consumption of meat;

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- eliminating food waste;

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- a fair access to land, thank to a legislation which prevents land grabbing;

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- an agriculture which doesn't try to export its production at all costs and defends the principles of food sovereignty worldwide.

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The tools we need

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In order to make this new agricultural model a reality, some measures are needed at the global, European, national and local levels.

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To allow fair prices, market stability and a re-localisation of food production, the Federation of Young European Greens proposes:

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- the reintroduction of market regulation and productions regulation mechanisms such as quotas and common market organisation tools.

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- trade agreements which promote fair trade, local food production and higher social and environmental standards, instead of free trade.

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- to work on European food autonomy, especially protein autonomy.

55 To promote transition towards new agricultural model and a fairer use of public
56 support, FYEG proposes:

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59 • to support to the installation of new farmers, to introduce land
management tools which guarantee a fair access to land, the development of
professional training independent from Agro-industry;

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• a fairer and more virtuous distribution of public support: support focused
on small and virtuous farms, no support for agro-industry;

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64 • not to use public support to maintain artificially low prices but instead
65 supporting the transition towards agroecology, organic agriculture and
permaculture, helping farmers in case of climate or health crisis and
supporting the installation of new farmers;

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• to introduce a conditionality of support based on human, social,
environmental and animal-welfare criterion;

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• to reject public support to private insurance mechanisms;

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71 • to introduce quotas of local and organic products in public catering
(schools, administrations) in order to insure markets to local and organic
peasants.

72 To promote an agriculture which respects our health and environment, FYEG

73 proposes:

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- to favour climate-friendly agricultural techniques;

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- to support agriculture according to independently produced health recommendations (less for meat and more for vegetal productions);

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- to make sure that the GMO legislation applies to new GMOs (or so called New Breeding Techniques);

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- an immediate and accompanied ban on GMO cultivation, GMO imports, Glyphosate and Neonicotinoids;

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- a progressive ban of pesticides.

82 FYEG will therefore engage in promoting these solutions in the new reform of
83 CAP.