EVOLUTION OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY



Since its introduction in 1962 the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) has undergone many reforms to keep it in step with changes in society, and sometimes to correct for unintended consequences. A new element since the turn of the century is making income support to farmers conditional upon cross-compliance with standards on environmental, public and animal health and providing public goods services such as nature and landscape conservation. This trend is expected to become increasingly important.

1958	1962-1968	1968-1992	1992-1999	2003-2013	2014-2020	2021-2027
EEC founded: Treaty of Rome	Beginning of the CAP: market & price policy	From importer to exporter	From price support to direct payments	From income support to single farm payments	Towards equal payments within and between member states	National CAP Strategic Plan
EEC founded:	Policy aims:	Consequences:	Policy changed to:	Single farm payments:	Flat rate per hectare:	Core of the new CAP:
 Six member states One internal market One common agricultural policy 	 Increasing productivity Income support for farmers Price stability Food security Reasonable food prices 	 Large surpluses Trade conflicts High budget costs to EU Production quotas 		 13 new member states in Central and Southern Europe All payments incorporated into a single farm payment Payments transferable End of quotas 	 From differences between farms to equal payments within and between member states Possibility to transfer up to 15% of direct payment budget to rural development policy 	More freedom for member states Conditions on support to farmers at member state level Greater ambition on climate and environment
Increasing social pressure on the CAP						
Conditions & requirements	 Quality standards for products 	 Quality standards for products 	 Voluntary national environmental and landscape requirements 	 Compulsory cross-compliance and good agricultural and environmental conditions 	 Additional requirements in the form of 'greening' measures 	 Stricter sustainability require- ments for basic payments Extra emphasis on climate and environment
Type of support	Price support per product: Import tariffs Export subsidies Intervention buying	 Price support per product: Import tariffs Export subsidies Intervention buying Production quotas and less market intervention 	 Payments per animal or per hectare Differentiated payments per product per region 	 Single payment scheme amount per hectare based on past performance specific to each farm Since 2000 complemented by the rural development funds 	 Uniform per hectare payments for all farms, including open-field horticulture RDP3: priorities include nature, landscape, water, innovation and support for young farmers 	 Basic income support for sustainability Additional payments for eco-schemes 30% rural development budget for environment and climate