



FACE

European Federation for Hunting and Conservation

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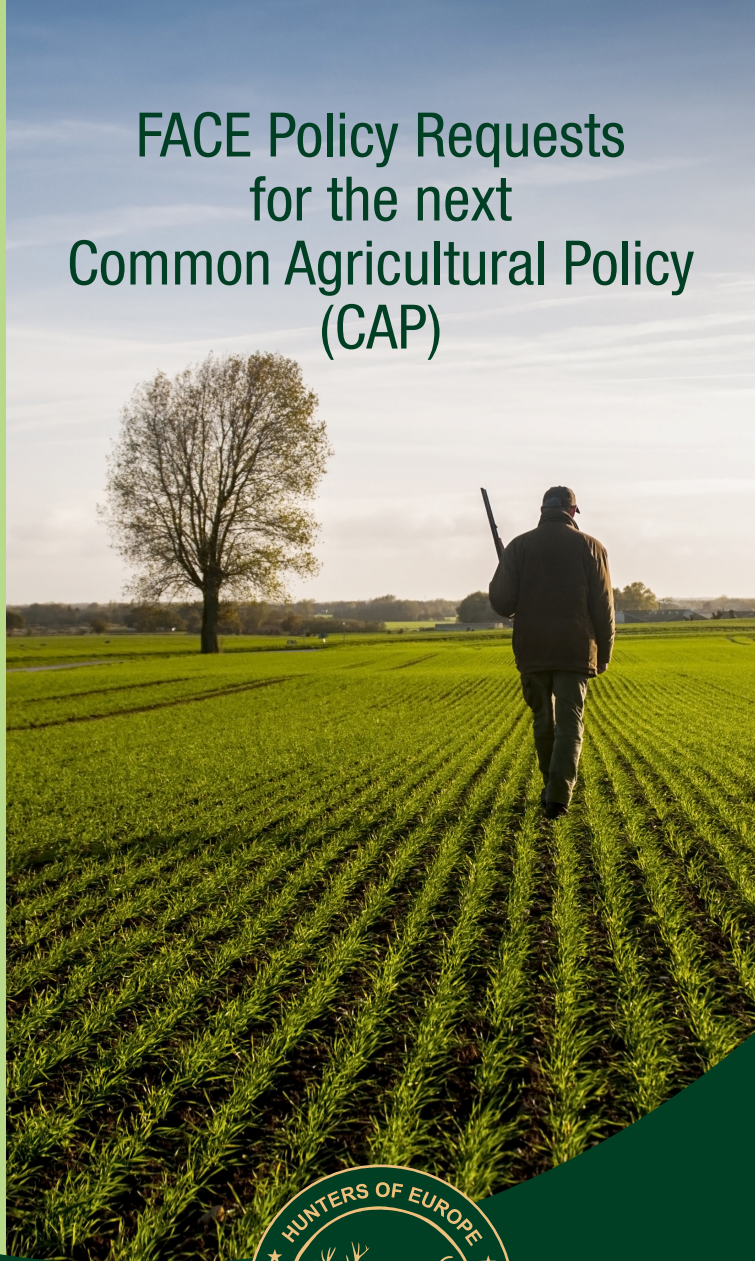
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FACE Policy Requests for the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



European hunters are aware that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a crucial support mechanism for agriculture and rural areas in Europe.

However, the CAP has a significant negative impact on the environment, biodiversity and the status of many huntable and non-huntable species in agricultural landscapes.

Most small game populations have dramatically decreased due to intensive agricultural practices - e.g. loss of habitat and feeding opportunities - and the use of unsustainable agriculture methods.



NATIONAL CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

There must be a high threshold set by the European Commission for the approval of national CAP Strategic Plans. Insufficient plans, including those that do not meet the EU's CAP environmental objectives and are not genuinely performance-based, should be rejected by the European Commission.

MONITORING

The European Commission must carefully monitor Member States' performance and implementation. Each plan should be objectively and systematically assessed.

DIRECT PAYMENTS

CAP direct payments should be in compliance with the (performance-based) CAP environmental objectives.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The partnership principle between environmental and agricultural authorities within EU institutions and Member States must be strongly promoted. Appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders, including hunters' associations, and scientific communities should be undertaken.

REPLACEMENT OF GREENING

The new system of "eco-schemes" must be financially attractive to farmers. Eco-schemes should genuinely contribute to biodiversity in order to address the loss of wildlife populations.

BIODIVERSITY-DEDICATED FUNDS

There must be sufficient ring-fencing of funds dedicated for biodiversity with Pillar I and II of the next CAP. FACE is calling for €12-15 billion to be ring-fenced for biodiversity. Member States should be able to move money from Pillar I to Pillar II (not the other way).

INCENTIVES

Small and medium sized farmers, which typically deliver many public goods and services often through high nature value farming (HNV), must be adequately incentivised to continue their sustainable farming practices.

PERFORMANCE-BASED APPROACH

A new performance-based approach to the design and implementation of agri-environmental schemes is required to deliver landscape-scale biodiversity improvements. Results-based agri-environmental schemes, which deliver considerable public goods and services, should play an integral role within Member States' CAP Strategic Plans.