

This morning's webinar was organized in collaboration with the Food Trend Foundation

FIERAGRICOLA PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2021-2027 CAP REFORM

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL WORLD

Verona, 30 June 2021. The newest policies including specific risk management resources, the possibility of leveraging biodiversity as an opportunity to promote **Made in Italy agri-food**, but also greater bureaucracy in the face of fewer financial resources available for farmers. As well as, the new constraints of social conditionality (the "**third pillar**" which introduces financing constraints for companies that do not respect labor rules), a crisis reserve to deal with any eventual "inconveniences" of a weather-climatic nature, production or market, and eco-schemes to require greater attention to the environment, moreover, an element on which agricultural businesses have shown increasing commitment to over the years.

The **2021-2027 Common Agricultural Policy** reform, recently approved at the European Council of Agricultural Ministers after the agreement reached in the super triad between Parliament, Commission, and the EU Council, does not fully satisfy the agricultural world; as noted during the **webinar** organized this morning by [Fieragricola](#) - an international exhibition dedicated to agriculture, to be held at **Veronafiere** from 26 to 29 January 2022 - in collaboration with the **Food Trend Foundation**, which was attended by the Hon. Paolo De Castro, S&D Comagri coordinator at the European Parliament, Hon. Herbert Dorfmann, Comagri EPP coordinator at the European Parliament, Alessandro Apolito (Coldiretti Economic Area manager), Massimiliano Giansanti (president of Confagricoltura), Dino Scanavino (president of Cia-Agricoltori Italiani), Franco Verrascina (president of Copagri), Giorgio Mercuri (president of the Agri-food Cooperative Alliance). Speaking on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027, which will be effective starting 1 January 2023 and which will be subject to a "mid-term review" in 2025, for the agricultural world there are perhaps more shadows than lights, but there is also the great - unprecedented - opportunity to develop a national strategic plan tailored to the needs of the territory and of Italian agricultural enterprises.

It is precisely a **National Strategic Plan**, which will have to be defined with the stakeholders and presented to the European Commission, that "we will have to work on, without forgetting that the negotiations overlapped with Covid, consequently lengthening times and that we continue to work in darkness for the long-term," said **Alessandro Apolito**, manager of the

Economic Area of **Coldiretti**. For whom the CAP reform offers interesting insights with 'the possibility of having risk management systems and protecting the agricultural worker'. Of course, we should not fall into the ideological traps that sometimes affect agriculture such as, 'the demonization of animal husbandry, resulting in more indiscriminate attacks on any type of farming'. Under the microscope, in the future, "the measures contained in the Green Deal and in the Farm to Fork strategy, which without an assessment of their impact, risk having a negative effect," concluded Apolito.

For the president of **Confagricoltura**, **Massimiliano Giansanti**, "the glass is half empty," since it is a CAP reform, "based on bureaucracy, which does not seem to us to be a model of economic development with which to overcome the challenges of the future. Let's not forget that historically the Common Agricultural Policy was born in a phase of demographic development and with the aim of guaranteeing the right income to farmers and harmonizing the policies of the Member States. We expected a more ambitious and generous CAP for farmers, instead the resources are fewer and the reform itself has lost its economic soul and does not respond to the need to produce more food for a world that is still growing in population."

The president of **Cia-Agricoltori Italiani**, **Dino Scanavino**, was also expecting a different CAP, pointing the finger at excessive bureaucracy. "We must face the challenge of competitiveness by focusing on production costs, favoring generational turnover in an effective manner, but also by supporting strategic production at the national level, without forgetting a comparison with the strategic plans of other nations such as France or Spain, so as not to be misaligned with respect to our competitors." The efforts required to protect biodiversity, for Scanavino, "could be enhanced by Italy, the home of biodiversity with over 400 native vines."

For **Copagri's** number one, **Franco Verrascina**, "the mission will now be to clearly choose the objectives to be included in the National Strategic Plan, valuing the role of farmers as custodians of the territory, clearly defining the role of the active farmer, and setting the ceiling for capping and planning support policies for young farmers." The judgment towards the CAP 2021-2027, however, overall remains critical, because "farmers will have to respect greater commitments with fewer financial resources and more bureaucracy." A knot, that of bureaucracy, moreover underlined by the Minister of Agricultural Policies Stefano Patuanelli upon the outcome of the agreement on the regulations of the CAP, in recent days.

On the third pillar, focused on social conditionality, "we are concerned about how it will be applied in other countries of the European Union, to avoid risks of competitiveness in disharmonious conditions. While the opportunity for production planning by the consortia representing Geographical Indications is a step forward that we appreciate," said **Giorgio Mercuri**, president of the **Agri-food Cooperative Alliance**. Who reiterated the concerns

expressed by a large part of the agricultural world, linked to an excess of bureaucracy and controls. At the political level, there was no lack of commitment in reaching the agreement on the part of the Italian MEPs: **Paolo De Castro**, **S&D Comagri** coordinator at the European Parliament, and **Herbert Dorfmann**, **PPE Comagri** coordinator.

“It will be a greener CAP that introduces environmental obligations,” explained the Hon. De Castro. We already see this with the eco-schemes, which incentivize farmers towards greener measures, which will be decided at the EU level and therefore without the risk of nationalization, although Member States have discretion within a framework defined by the EU.”

“It is a reform that 100% of farmers do not like, we are aware that obtaining the resources of the first pillar is more complicated than in the past. But it is a solution of compromises at the political level; however, we have a CAP that is more attentive to one of the great challenges today, which is climate change,” affirmed the Hon. Dorfmann. Who on this last aspect remarked, “the harmony of the European Parliament and Italian success, which asked that a 3% share of the funds dedicated to direct aid be reserved to strengthen the insurance system.”

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