



Common base – September 2007

We, member organisations of the European Coordination Via Campesina want to reinforce the European farmers movement to get the European agriculture policy changed. We defend the right of food sovereignty, necessary for this change. The common base here under resumes our values and our priorities. We invite the farmers and rural organisations who share this common base to join us to get the CAP changed already in 2008.

What are our values ?

- ▶ Solidarity, instead of competition,
- ▶ social justice,
- ▶ equality of rights between men and women,
- ▶ sustainable use of the natural resources,
- ▶ producers and consumers health,
- ▶ regional diversity of products and of agri-cultures.

Why do we want to change the present agriculture policies in Europe ?

The present CAP, as a result from a bad CAP before 1992, badly reformed in 1992, 1999 and 2003 according to the WTO criteria, is removing the European farmers, is legitimate neither on the international nor on social levels, and ruins the environment, the health, the quality of products and makes farmers assisted people without economic and social recognition. Farmers from the Central and Eastern Europe countries which joined the EU are financially discriminated. The European countries outside the EU which signed the WTO agreement are following agriculture policies parallel to the CAP.

Our priorities for a fair, sustainable and legitimate agriculture policy

- We need a public policy, an European agriculture policy defined by the Europeans, not by the WTO.
- Yes to a change of CAP, no to its removal.

- Priority should be given to agricultural and rural employment. We say no to farmer's disappearance.
- The rights of women farmers should be recognised.
- Access to land, water, seeds, and credit should become a right: That includes the farmer's rights to save their seeds and to improve plant varieties.
- the setting up of young farmers has to be promoted.
- Farmers' income should come first from selling their products. For farm prices reflecting the real value of the products, the two following conditions: are necessary:
 - Supply management instruments should be implemented, to avoid surpluses or shortages.
 - Any dumping at export (at prices below the production costs) must be forbidden, and in exchange for this duty, the EU and the other countries have the right to protect themselves from imports at too low prices.
- To maintain a countryside alive in all regions,
 - Sustainable family farming should be maintained and developed: European funds are necessary, especially for small farms and less favoured areas.
 - The process of concentration of the agricultural production has to be stopped and the production better distributed between the regions and between the farms.
 - Public services should be maintained and improved in all regions
- The modes of production which harm the environment, use too much energy, damage the quality and the safety of the products, have to be re-orientated.
- Agricultural land should be used first for food production.
- Biodiversity should be safeguarded: GMOs and patents of life must be banned.
- Rural development policy does not have to replace the CAP, does not have to correct the failures of the CAP, but has to complete the CAP, by developing employment first.
- Short food miles should have priority compared to long transport and to international markets.
- Immigrant agricultural workers have to be treated without discrimination, with the same rights as the Europeans.
- We need international trade rules without dumping, based on food sovereignty, human rights, and international labour rights.