

Priorities - Agriculture & Food

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



ISSUE

The EU should seek a balanced and competitive agricultural policy to meet growing global demand for food while respecting the need to protect our planet and provide a future for European farmers.



RECOMMENDATION

- **Empower farmers** through market driven policies, allowing them to respond to price signals while providing a safety net where necessary;
- **Protect the Single Market** and retain commonality of the CAP – in view of the new architecture of National Strategy Plans;
- **Promote sustainable farming** practices and productivity via sustainable intensification. This includes the promotion of a system based on ‘prevention first and always’, bringing the old practices of farming in line with digital technologies of the new millennium. This commitment to greater support for farmers will in turn contribute to improving food safety and public health;
- **Support Research & Development (R&D)** in agriculture including digital and precision farming; and
- **Promote a global playing field** and nondiscriminatory treatment of local versus imported raw material needed to supply the European market.

Revision of legal framework for veterinary medicinal products



ISSUE

The veterinary medicines legislation has been adopted and will enter into force in 2022. It is now in comitology.



RECOMMENDATION

- **Implementation of the agreement**, including through secondary legislation, should be based on a benefit-risk assessment, rather than hazard-based approaches;
- **Concerns remain** about an article in the new EU legislation that introduces the concept of reciprocity in the use of some classified antibiotics. Prohibitions or restrictions applying to the use of some critically important antibiotics for humans in the EU would also be applicable to animals or food of animal origin in third countries and trigger an import ban of those products into the EU; and
- **Investment in research** is paramount to ensure that innovative treatments, new technologies and care options become available.

Risk assessment, management and communication



ISSUE

A balance between risk assessment, management and communication is of paramount importance for the integrity of the food chain and to allow and promote innovation and sustainable growth in the agro-food sector.



RECOMMENDATION

- **Risk management decisions** should be communicated in a clear, timely and transparent way to foster and encourage (rather than discourage) consumer acceptance of technological developments; and
- **Rigorous scientific and risk-based decision-making** should be at the front and centre of all discussions.