



CEJA Position Statement on Market Crisis

Considering the extent of the crisis the EU agricultural sector finds itself in today; the disproportionate impact this is having on young farmers and those young people attempting to enter the sector; the potentially serious damage this could do to the future growth of the sector; and the damage that has already been done across all EU agricultural sectors; CEJA is calling for more funding and policy measures to address these challenges. Although some measures are more sector-specific, CEJA would like to underline the importance of measures to alleviate the crisis in **all** agricultural sectors.

Article 222

Article 222, activated on 13 April 2016, will enable producer organisations, interbranch organisations and cooperatives to establish voluntary agreements on their production and was agreed upon by Commissioner Hogan and the Agriculture Council on 14 March 2016. Article 222 is specific to the agricultural sector and can be applied in case of severe imbalance in the market.

Considering the current severe imbalance in the whole of EU market and that the Article 222 has already been activated by the European Commission and is clearly supported by the EU institutions, it is essential that new funding is found to support farmers to voluntarily reduce their production otherwise the measure will be entirely ineffective.

- ➔ CEJA therefore calls for **additional new budget** – which does not emanate from the crisis reserve – **to fund the immediate implementation of Article 222.**

- ➔ CEJA also calls on the EU institutions to **organise an imminent EU-level conference on the subject to bring together all stakeholders and economic actors to discuss the modalities of the implementation** of the measure but also the current and future challenges faced by those active in the sector today.
 - This should facilitate the implementation of this Article 222 in a fair way at EU-level even further.



Financial Instruments

- ➔ CEJA calls for more cooperation with the European Investment Bank (**EIB**) and European Investment Fund (EIF) in order to **foster the creation of financial instruments** aimed at alleviating cash flow difficulties for young farmers in times of crisis and facilitating access to credit.
 - Some of these financial instruments should **target young farmers exclusively**, ensuring they are able to stay afloat in the sector and weather such price storms in which they are likely to be the most vulnerable and allowing them to keep investing and innovating.

Risk Management

Considering the depth and breadth of the current agricultural market crises, it is clear that instruments and tools must be created and made available to farmers now so that such dire situations can be avoided in future. As young farmers, we should not only be able to manage the current crisis, but we should be able to keep our businesses viable, sustainable and competitive today and in the future. These tools should be addressed to all young farmers in all agricultural sectors, considering they are all vulnerable to crisis.

- ➔ CEJA therefore calls for the improvement of specific **risk management tools, including insurance tools and income stabilisation tools.**

Transparency and Trade

In a bid to increase transparency while protecting and empowering European farmers in current and future trade agreements, CEJA calls for:

- ➔ **Mandatory origin labelling for all agri-food products** in an effort to increase consumption, transparency and add value to domestic produce
- ➔ **Safeguards against unfair competition** for European farmers and a prompt safeguard clause which can come into play swiftly in the case of market disruption
- ➔ More resources and **continued support for promotion policy** for agri-food products to explore and open new markets
- ➔ An imminent **solution to the Russian ban** on agricultural imports in order to reopen the Russian market