



## Press Release

**\*\*\*For immediate release\*\*\***

**12 October 2011, Brussels**

### **CAP towards 2020 – legislative package does not go far enough**

Today, the Commission published their vision for the Common Agriculture Policy towards 2020. The European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium (EPHAC) welcomes the European Commission's recognition of the urgent challenges of climate change and increasing pressure on the world's resources. However, EPHAC believes the proposals largely ignore public health and do not go far enough towards a truly sustainable food and farming policy.

*The Commission Communication on the CAP in November included public health as a priority and recognised the increasing focus on nutrition and sustainable consumption as part of the larger societal issues that CAP must deliver on.” said Clive Needle, Chair of the European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium and Director of EuroHealthNet. “The legislative package presented today does not go far enough or adequately address the radical changes that will need to be made in production and consumption to address the challenges of chronic disease, climate change and feeding an increasing global population adequately, equitably and sustainably.*

EPHAC welcomes the intent showed by the Commission to shift towards resource-efficient local and regional food systems, but feels that a more holistic approach should be taken that provides multiple benefits for society such as access to foods necessary for healthy diet and building more resilient food systems. Climate change and loss of biodiversity will increasingly have an impact on health and well-being. Although the proposals have a substantial “greening element”, they do not adequately address reducing dependency of agriculture on fossil fuels, chemical inputs and imported feedstuffs.

EPHAC welcomes the changes made in the legislative proposals to improve the School Fruit Scheme and the Most Deprived Persons Scheme, but we need to continue to develop ideas for a more comprehensive programme that improves access to foods of high nutritional value for

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all members of society including vulnerable groups. Linking production and consumption policy can be a driver in creating necessary change.

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Notes to the editor:

EPHAC is a Brussels based alliance of civil society and public health organisations advocating for a healthy, sustainable Common Agriculture Policy. EPHAC members are European Alcohol Policy Alliance, EuroHealthNet, European Heart Network (EHN), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), , Heart of Mersey, National Heart Forum (NHF) and North West Health Brussels Office (NWHBO).

Chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), overweight and obesity, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), diabetes, cancer, and mental health disorders pose the greatest threat to health and are a major barrier to sustainable economic and inclusive growth in Europe. Diet, along with physical activity, alcohol and tobacco consumption is one of the leading modifiable risk factors for NCDs.

The significance of the economic costs of ill health in Europe has been acknowledged by the World Economic Forum in its publication “Global Risks 2010”. In this report, chronic diseases are stressed as one of the most severe risk factors we will face, alongside much discussed fiscal crises.

See also “Assessing the impacts of EU rules in the area of animal health and welfare, plant health, consumer choice, food and feed safety and public health on agriculture and the food sector” [http://ec.europa.eu/food/cap\\_toward\\_2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/cap_toward_2020/index_en.htm)

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More information on the event is available here: <http://www.healthyagriculture.eu/?p=92>

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