



Feedback from:

EuroHealthNet

Feedback reference

F13370

Submitted on

25 July 2018

Submitted by

Cathrine Hernández FESTERSEN

User type

Other

Organisation

EuroHealthNet

Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

[48562122691-12](#)

Country of origin

Belgium

Initiative

[Multiannual Financial Framework - AGRI Proposal \(3/3\) - Common Organisation of the Markets](#)

EuroHealthNet takes a note of the proposal for an Amending Regulation on the rules of the Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products, aimed to outline provisions related to certain sectoral interventions. EU financial support given to the EU farming sector takes a big slice of the EU budget and affects how and what kinds of agricultural goods are produced and consumed in the EU. It also impacts on environmental conditions, public health, health inequalities -and levels of poverty and social exclusion in the EU. To justify the use of public money in this area, it is important that spending guidelines are aligned with EU, national and local priorities in these other areas to ensure that these funds contribute to the well-being of EU citizens and people across the world.

While realising the limits of the CAP to improve public health outcomes on its own, the system of subsidies plays an important role in shaping the food demand-supply chain. It is important that EU funds for agricultural production are spent in ways that are coherent with our current understanding of public health needs. This would strengthen broader public support for the policy. To this end, the proposals must consider:

► EU agriculture and the CAP strategic plans at national level must align with state of the art public health evidence: A removal of tobacco subsidies in the last round of the CAP reforms was a big success for public health. It was a good sign of political will to fix some of inconsistencies between EU farming and health policies. Alcohol, meat and insufficient fruit and vegetables consumption as NCDs risk factors should also be addressed. Therefore, it is concerning to still observe sectoral support to other health-harming agricultural goods that this tool offers. Proposed allocation of more than 1 billion EURO between 2021-27 to 16 EU MS for wine production and promotion, continuous substantial funds to livestock and industrial crops production (150 billion EURO between 2017-2020) all but undermine Art.168 of TFEU, and contradicts the EU's sustainability and public health goals.[1]

► The CAP should reward farmers that produce commodities that promote health and applying ecological and sustainable methods: The level of fruit and vegetable consumption in European countries falls short of the daily recommendations to maintain a healthy diet. Supported by the advice from the EU Strategy on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related Health Issues, EU Childhood Obesity Action Plan and the WHO European Nutrition Action Plan, EU MS are committed to support the production and distribution of fruit and vegetables at various points along the farm-to-plate chain. This can be done through financial incentives to farmers to produce and public institutions to procure healthy and sustainable foods and for schemes that increase access for vulnerable groups.

► Next EU budget under the CAP should sufficiently pay for the EU aid for the supply of fruit and vegetables in educational establishments to contribute to closing the consumption gap: Considered a good practice that fosters collaboration between the education, health and agriculture sectors to improve the availability and affordability of fruits and vegetables, the EU School Fruit Scheme has been implemented across the EU to increase consumption levels and ultimately contribute to better health outcomes among children[2]. A planned cut in annual spending (down to €130 million per year) for this scheme is discouraged, as it may overturn and dismiss its health- and equity-promoting return on investment that has only started showing its value.

[1] Expert Review on Agricultural and Food Supply, from Transforming Food and Drink Policies for Cardiovascular health (2017)

<http://www.ehnheart.org/publications-and-papers/publications.html>

[2] <https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/evaluation/mark...>

[Report an issue with this feedback](#)

All feedback

The views and opinions expressed here are entirely those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official opinion of the European Commission. The Commission cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in them. Neither the Commission, nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf, may be held responsible for the content or the information posted here. Views and opinions that violate the Commission's feedback rules will be removed from the site.