

**Renew Europe's vision for
a Prosperous & Green Farm Deal**

renew europe.

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Europe is known throughout the world for its high quality food and diverse culinary traditions. Thanks to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), farmers produce the food we need and we enjoy a great variety of abundant, affordable, safe food, produce to the highest standards. As European agriculture and rural areas play a vital role in ensuring sustainable and viable food production, more needs to be done for its environmental sustainability and continuous development of high added value. We need to ensure that the EU's high quality production would increasingly match with the increasingly ambitious environmental standards and economic and social viability, i.e. achieve a viable green production model, protecting the environment, and aligning of the economy of rural areas with the EU's Green Deal and Digital agenda ambition.

Renew Europe's vision for food and farming is for a sustainable, efficient and productive agricultural sector. According to this vision the EU's environmental, climate, and biodiversity commitments will be fully matched with a strong, resilient and sustainable agricultural production with enough farmers making a living by answering markets and consumer expectations. This is why we strive for a combination of robust new and innovative CAP instruments in both CAP pillars, i.e. Enhanced Eco Schemes in the I. Pillar and Smart Green Investments in the II. Pillar to enable farmers, citizens and rural areas unlock their full green economy potential.

People make the difference

To achieve a Prosperous Green Farm Deal means a qualitative CAP transformation. The above would not bring success across our entire Union without solid and developing societal fabric in rural areas. This is why we insist to complement CAP with efficient tools focused on the most vulnerable small farmers, the younger generation, agri-business start-ups and an improved situation for rural women. A people and society centric CAP is essential for the buy-in, realisation, implementation and achievement of new policy objectives. It is on this basis that we in Renew would strive for an ambitious proportion of resources for green and digital knowledge transfers, green advisory and research.

New Green Farm Deal objectives

It is key for Renew Europe that the new CAP Strategic Plans contribute to our climate and environmental ambition for the European Green Deal, particularly the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity. Agriculture plays a key role in protecting the environment and landscapes and Europe must, via a modern, forward-looking and results-based policy, maximise its contribution and potential.

For Renew Europe, the CAP strategic plans must be consistent with the five original CAP treaty objectives, namely ensuring food security for Europeans and decent living conditions as well as provide tools to meet new objectives included in the European Green Deal and Digital agenda. To achieve this, it is relevant to clearly define a set of objectives along with results-based policy indicators in order to allow Member States and farmers to reach EU objectives via simplified policy.

New Green Farm Deal architecture

The CAP greening measures have not fully delivered in a measurable way on their potential. That's why Renew Europe supports the introduction of new innovative Enhanced Eco Schemes. These Enhanced Eco Schemes should be obligatory, introduced by the Member States and each farmer must have the opportunity to participate in order to kick-start the green economy transition.

To this end Renew Europe takes the view that, an attractive amount of at least 30% to 40% of the 1st pillar should be progressively ringfenced over the next CAP period accordingly to the Enhanced Eco Schemes.

To secure a high green ambition, the Enhanced Eco Schemes must be complementary to conditionality, should have enough incentives to maximise farmer's participation; should be strictly measured against progress of results achieved and should not be subject to a double control mechanism.

With Enhanced Eco Schemes, every farmer receiving support shall not only meet minimum standards but must be enabled to deliver on increased environmental, climate and animal welfare ambition through a variety of incentivising eco-schemes.

Rural development policy, designed to support rural areas to meet a wide range of economic, environmental and societal challenges, can play a role in promoting a more inclusive society and making rural areas a better place to earn a living. Keeping people, and the younger generation in particular, in rural areas and addressing other social challenges require enabling conditions, such as access to business opportunities, knowledge, and basic services.

Implemented by national and regional governments our rural development policy has proven to be effective in the achievement of the CAP objectives because of its targeted, result-oriented and tailor-made approach.

For Renew Europe it is also of extreme importance that we have a rural development policy which not only delivers on societal challenges but also on the environmental & climate challenges we face. Complementary to our Enhanced Eco Schemes approach, targeted measures on Agro-environmental commitments, organic farming, areas with natural constraints, high nature value areas, risk management solutions, will serve as a initiative and ideas platform for future eco-schemes.

Renew Europe proposes ringfencing of at least 30% to 40 % of the 2nd pillar for environment and climate objective, increasing its ambitions by combining economical and environmental targets and allocate at least the minimum of 30 % of the investment package to the environment and climate related investment, i.e. Smart Green Investments.