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Press Release

**Presentation of the post 2027 MFF/CAP - The Black Wednesday of European Agriculture**

**Today, European farming organisations** [**mobilised in Brussels for a symbolic march**](https://pwid2174.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/Communication/EuV631zCOABHlNQ9_cyO8q8B1AkDcq6h1tOuJfMeRZ1OzQ?e=jLpHiF) **opposing the historic approach taken by the European Commission on two key pillars of European agricultural policy: the future budget framework and the CAP. While harvests are in full swing, the Commission has effectively decided to dismantle the ‘Common’ nature of the CAP through concealed budget cuts under the guise of a so-called ‘Single Fund’, alongside a complete renationalisation justified by the alleged virtue of administrative simplification. Will the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers support what is already shaping up to be the worst reform of the CAP? The coming months will prove decisive.**

Copa-Cogeca has been mobilising for several months, warning against a purely accounting-driven approach and the political inconsistency that would result from dissolving the CAP into a ‘Single Fund’. Considering the colossal challenges facing agriculture, Copa-Cogeca has instead advocated for a consolidated, inflation-adjusted budget and a CAP that ensures predictability and the good functioning of the single market.

While the Commission was publicly speaking about stakeholder engagement, inclusive dialogue, and listening to farming communities, we now have clear evidence that President von der Leyen had, in fact, been preparing behind the scenes for months a radical, unilateral, and cynical approach to EU agriculture and its budget. Likewise, the votes and positions of the European Parliament and the European Council have been entirely disregarded in the proposal presented today. The result is an approach that is unacceptable to European farming organisations.

More than the absence of details of the CAP proposals which have yet to be released and will require a very detailed analysis—and a lack of clarity, it is the message sent today by the top of the European executive that proves truly damaging. Beneath the euphemisms, accounting debates, and polished talking points lies a more unsettling truth: the very foundation of European agricultural policy is being undermined and dismantled in what could go down as a Black Wednesday in Brussels.

Budgetary cuts, the dissolution of the two pillars, a loss of communality and the Commission’s disengagement from its historic agricultural policy, can they be interpreted as anything else than a message of abandonment, indifference, and lack of strategic priority for agriculture and rural communities?

Regardless of budgetary breakdowns, we know exactly who will be hit hardest: family farms—the cornerstone of our model. These farms have withstood crisis after crisis. They provide diversity, quality, and resilience in our food systems and territories. These are the farmers we applauded during the pandemic and who will lead the green transition demanded by the Commission. And yet, with this budget signal—just as a new legislative cycle begins, and with the looming EU-Mercosur deal—how can the Commission expect to still be heard and trusted by the agricultural community in the years ahead?

The Commission would do well to heed the more than [6,000 organisations that have signed our petition](https://nosecuritywithoutcap.eu/) in just a few weeks. Their message is clear: deep and growing concern—and yes, rising anger—at the sense of being ignored while being the backbone of European (food) security.

To those who feel shocked, dismayed, or stunned by the Commission’s announcements this Wednesday, we say this is only the beginning of a long process. As we demonstrated today in front of the Berlaymont alongside numerous Members of the European Parliament from across the political spectrum, we call on the European co-legislators—particularly the Agriculture Committee and ministers—to take up these two dossiers and turn words of support for agriculture into concrete action. Copa and Cogeca will remain strongly mobilised at this historic moment for the sector.

**-END-**

Translations will be available in DE, ES, FR, IT, PL and RO on the Copa-Cogeca website soon.

About us - Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, we ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, while guaranteeing food security for 500 million people throughout Europe. >>> More information [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

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