



# Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs

Draft on the CAP reform position paper

October 2003

## Draft position on “CAP reform on Mediterranean products”

The European Model of Agriculture contains a high number of products, which means a high level of biodiversity to be proud of, with different characteristics for each products. This includes among other:

- **Olive oil is a very versatile product.** Olive production provides landscape and habitat diversity in many upland areas and is an important source of employment and economic activities in the main producer areas. Furthermore, olive production offers seasonal employment. Olive growers are valued for their role in combating desertification and promoting biodiversity as well as ensuring a beautiful countryside, with decreasing the risk of erosion and fires.
- **Tobacco production has a remarkable high geographical concentration of major importance for the local economy and for employment.** Tobacco production and transformation area very labour intensive process creating much (seasonal) employment, especially among women mainly from within the farming family. Tobacco is often produced in areas with limited production alternative and tobacco production therefore has a both economical and social role to play. Tobacco production represents only 0,4% of the EU agricultural output.
- **Cotton production is mainly produced on small mono-cultural farms**, meaning that the cotton farmers are very dependant on this crop. The cotton sector contribute only 0,5% to the final agricultural output. The EU is the major net importer on the world scene.

**At present the European agricultural policy linked to the these sectors are being revised. What Europe’s young farmers agree upon in the CAP reform:**

- CEJA agrees with the proposal on **partial decoupling** as a measure to avoid the abandon of these sectors. In order to maintain these productions, Member States may choose to keepa limited link between subsidy and production under well defined conditions and within clear limits. We recognise that it time to make part of the Mediterranean sectors more market oriented in terms of quality. Also we welcome the proposal of introducing **cross compliance** for the Mediterranean products to make the production better correspond to the wish of the consumers.
- CEJA agrees with the proposal of keeping **budget neutrality**, as the Commission agreed last July, among other as an essential part in the territorial approach taken in the Brussels European Council in October 2002 deciding on the need to keep multifunctional agriculture in all parts of Europe and safeguard all producers in disadvantaged areas.

Though, taking into account that Mediterranean products is concentrated in regions lacking economically makes it even more **to give room for the new comers**. Without young farmers to take over, we risk to jeopardise not only the European agricultural production and part of Europe's biodiversity but also part of the local employment, and as a consequence the preservation of traditions, culture and social life linked to those rural areas.

If we want the Mediterranean production to become organised in more **modern holdings of the traditionally sectors and/or even into holdings producing other crops that what have been traditionally produced**, we must explicitly target the young generation. We call on the Commission to make sure that **the entitlements will be offered to the young generation** at a **price of zero** in the legislative proposals meant for publication in November.

The European Commission is calling on developing sustainable development in the sectors, but would the most appropriate sustainable development not be to make these sectors prepared for the future? We appeal to you to adopt the CAP in a way that allow each production of the agricultural sector to survive in Europe as a mean to satisfy European consumers request for high standards on food quality, to provide services covering the environment, public health and animal welfare but also part of Europe's cultural heritage.

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*CEJA is made up of 22 national organisations from the 15 European Union Member States and 6 associated members from the candidate countries representing around one million young farmers in Europe. CEJA represents the political interests of its members with the primary goal of ensuring installation of young farmers, and is considered one of the key advocates for the agricultural sector. CEJA's main objectives are to ease the installation in Europe, to inform and train young farmers, to act as a forum for communication and dialogue between young farmers and to sensitise European citizens to farming related issues.*