

**Joint Statement of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovak Republic  
on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy.  
Visegrád, 25 June 2010**

We are convinced, in the spirit of the objectives laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, that it is indispensable to possess a strong Common Agricultural Policy post 2013. This policy should fully preserve its Community character and respect the principles of solidarity, especially in the financial dimension, and equal treatment and conditions among all Member States.

In our view, CAP should continue to keep its two-pillar regulatory framework while preserving at least the current level of budgetary funding. Direct payments should remain an important CAP instrument for support and stabilisation of agricultural income as well as for providing the society with public goods. The success of the CAP in future requires to link financial support with future objectives, which makes necessary to depart from historical and currently unfair criteria applied for distribution of support.

It is of major importance that the main focus of the CAP should include food security, health and food safety, environmental protection, mitigation of the impacts of climate change, more reasonable and efficient water management, preservation of biodiversity and agricultural potential, maintenance of the diversity of agricultural holdings and an increase in the share of renewable energy use. All these aspects should be combined with the maintenance of the international competitiveness of the European agri-food model.

The rural development resources of CAP, together with Cohesion Funds, should be used for the establishment of rural areas with proper infrastructure where people can live and find work and livelihood for themselves. Increased attention should be paid to efforts that will create jobs, support the available opportunities for self-employment, develop rural tourism, strengthen the functioning of local markets and facilitate market access for special food produced locally. It is of high importance to find ways to improve the access to and raise the quality of public services in rural areas, that is to improve the standard of living as a whole.

In spite of the increasing market uncertainties, we must ensure a fair income level for the farmers so that they will have trust in investing and developing the agricultural potential of Europe. It will require a regulatory framework that is capable of handling the situations caused by extreme market fluctuations and weather anomalies. Equally significant is the due attention that is to be given to facilitate a correct relationship among the participants in the food chain.

In our view, it is a burning issue to simplify CAP and to make its legislative framework more transparent, uniform and less burdensome so that it could be better understood and applied by farmers and taxpayers alike. At the same time we underline that simplification shall not lead to weakening of the CAP efficiency and effectiveness of its interventions.

We recognise importance of the Development Goals of the WTO Doha Round , yet we wish to stress that achieving these Goals cannot deter the Community from ensuring equal conditions for competition in European agriculture and cannot prevent the CAP from meeting the new challenges.

The countries present consider the continuation of legal restriction on the purchase of agricultural land as an important element in the realization of their national agricultural policy objectives.

*Reservation by the Czech Republic: We cannot agree with the following part of the Statement “while preserving at least the current level of budgetary funding”.*

Czech Republic

Republic of Poland

Republic of Hungary

Slovak Republic

Republic of Bulgaria

Romania