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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 9 November 2026: Meeting of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans Directors (Dublin, 14-16 September 2026) *- Information from the Presidency*

The Presidency invites delegations to take note of the meeting of the CAP Directors that took place in Dublin from 14 to 16 September 2026.

The meeting focused on preparations for the effective implementation of the future CAP under the NRP Plans. Ireland also shared information on its agricultural sector, as well as its experience of European Innovation Partnerships.

The future CAP under the NRP Plans was considered through a series of workshops addressing the practical issues Member States will need to consider. These included the Partnership Principle and the preparation of CAP Chapters within the NRP Plan. A further workshop examined future support for rural areas, with a particular focus on LEADER and its relationship with the Rural Target.

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Discussions highlighted the need for Member States to begin preparing for the new framework. They also considered the opportunities for greater synergies offered by the new structure and the role of recommendations in the preparation and implementation process.

Discussions on the **Partnership Principle** focused on how to establish effective partnerships and involve stakeholders in the development and implementation of CAP Chapters.

Delegations exchanged views on approaches to stakeholder engagement, partnership structures and the transition to the NRPP framework. A range of approaches are being considered by Member States, including the organisation of CAP Chapters, coordination arrangements and the role of existing CAP networks and partnership structures.

The importance of maintaining effective stakeholder engagement throughout the transition was emphasised. In particular, delegations highlighted the need to ensure that the new governance arrangements do not weaken the role of CAP Monitoring Committees or other existing partnership structures that are working effectively.

Discussions on the **drafting of CAP Chapters** considered how CAP interventions could be designed within the wider NRPP framework, with particular emphasis on synergies, flexibility and simplification.

Delegations highlighted several important considerations:

- Building on experience gained through the existing CAP Strategic Plans and ensuring continuity for farmers and administrations.
- Reducing administrative burdens through fewer and broader measures, less detailed EU-level requirements and broader approaches to costing.
- Improving interoperability between management systems, enabling once-only reporting and making greater use of information already held by public authorities.
- Addressing the challenges of establishing effective synergies between different funds and government departments.
- Delegations also noted that the NRPP could introduce an additional layer of coordination rather than simplify existing arrangements. The importance of ensuring that the new structures remain manageable was therefore emphasised.

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The need to maintain dialogue with the Commission was also highlighted, particularly to ensure that amendment procedures are sufficiently flexible to respond to changing circumstances.

Discussions on **future support for rural areas** considered the types of interventions that could contribute to the Rural Target. These included locally led development, basic services, advisory support and measures to support rural communities and local economies.

Delegations emphasised the importance of maintaining the added value of LEADER and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) under the new framework. Possible approaches included ring-fencing funding for LEADER, either within or separately from the proposed Rural Target.

The discussion also highlighted uncertainty about the future governance and delivery of rural development under the NRPP. Delegations stressed the importance of maintaining effective partnership arrangements and a locally led approach.

There was support for including LEADER and CLLD within the Rural Target. However, delegations also highlighted the need to recognise traditional co-financed rural development measures, including small-scale investments, notwithstanding the proposed changes to the funding structure and the introduction of the NRP Plan.

The Presidency invites delegations to take note of the discussions at the CAP Directors meeting, which provided valuable insight into participants' views on the challenges and opportunities for Member States under the new NRP structure.

The main opportunities identified included greater flexibility in the design of interventions, stronger links between different policy areas and funding sources, and improved cooperation between national authorities. The potential to simplify implementation for authorities was also recognised.

At the same time, delegations raised concerns about the additional coordination required under the new framework and the risk of creating unnecessary complexity. The continued role of existing partnership structures, including CAP Monitoring Committees, was highlighted as an important consideration.

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The importance of maintaining continuity for farmers and administrations, alongside effective governance and control arrangements, was also emphasised.

Finally, discussions underlined the continued importance of rural development for farmers and rural communities. In particular, delegations highlighted the need to provide sufficient support to maintain the established bottom-up approaches of LEADER and CLLD, while also recognising the contribution of traditional rural development measures, including interventions supporting farmers, within the Rural Target.

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