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Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034 [11733/25 + ADD1 + ADD1 COR1- COM(2025)560] - Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality

Delegations will find enclosed the reasoned opinion¹ of the Irish parliament (Houses of the Oireachtas) on the above.

¹ Translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address: <https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0560>



Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht agus Bia

An Cion Polaitiúil i ndáil leis an Togra le haghaidh
RIALACHÁN Ó PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA AGUS ÓN
gCOMHAIRLE lena mbunaítear na coinníollacha maidir le
tacaíocht ón Aontas a chur chun feidhme don
Chomhbheartas Talmhaíochta don tréimhse ó 2028 go
2034

Nollaig 2025

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food

Political Contribution on Proposal for a REGULATION
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL establishing the conditions for the
implementation of the Union support to the Common
Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034

December 2025

34/JCAF/05

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Related information

Publications

All publications for this committee are available on [Press releases from the Houses of the Oireachtas – Houses of the Oireachtas](#) Oireachtas website.

Committee debates

Transcripts of Committee debates can be found on the [Latest Debates of the Committee on Agriculture and Food – Committee on Agriculture and Food – 34th ...](#) Committee debates page.

Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the [Videos – Committee on Agriculture and Food – 34th Dáil, 27th Seanad – Houses of the Oireachtas](#) Committee video page.

Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the [Committee on Agriculture and Food – 34th Dáil, 27th Seanad – Houses of the Oireachtas](#).

Terms of reference

Read the terms of reference for the Committee in the [our role](#) section of the Committee page.

Committee Membership

Cathaoirleach

[Aindrias Moynihan TD](#) Fianna Fáil

Leas-Cathaoirleach

[William Aird TD](#) Fine Gael

Members

[Peter 'Chap' Cleere TD](#) Fianna Fáil

[Joe Cooney TD](#) Fine Gael

[Michael Fitzmaurice TD](#) Independent Ireland

[Danny Healy-Rae TD](#) Independent

[Martin Kenny TD](#) Sinn Féin

[Paul Lawless TD](#) Aontú

[Natasha Newsome Drennan TD](#) Sinn Féin

[Senator Victor Boyhan](#) Independent

[Senator Paraic Brady](#) Fine Gael

[Senator Joanne Collins](#) Sinn Féin

[Senator Paul Daly](#) Fianna Fáil

[Senator Eileen Lynch](#) Fine Gael

Introduction

1. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food (“the Committee”) considers COM (2025) 560, REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034, to be of major significance to Ireland and to the EU.

Scrutiny by the Joint Committee

2. The Committee first considered the proposal at its meeting on 8th October 2025 and agreed that it would be further scrutinised.

Decision of the Joint Committee

3. On 8th October 2025, the Committee agreed to draft a political contribution on this proposal and to forward a copy to Martin Heydon T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola MEP, President of the European Parliament, and to the President of the Council of the European Union. The Committee also agreed at its meeting on 16th December 2025 to send the political contribution to Simon Harris T.D. Minister for Finance and to the following Commissioners in the EU: Christophe Hansen, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food; Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency; and Maria Luís Albuquerque, Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union.
4. The Joint Committee agreed to undertake several steps to scrutinise this proposal and to help with the drafting of its Political Contribution.
5. The Committee received a briefing from officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at its meeting on 5th November 2025, the transcript of which can be viewed [here](#).

6. The Committee arranged two further public hearings with stakeholder groups, to elicit their views on the proposal. The Committee held meetings with the following stakeholder groups on Wednesday 26th November and Wednesday 3rd December 2025 in relation to this proposal and the transcripts for these meetings can be found [here](#) and [here](#):

- a. Forum Connemara CLG
- b. Macra na Feirme
- c. North East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD)
- d. Clare Local Development Company
- e. Local Development Companies Network (LDCN)
- f. Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association (ICSA)
- g. Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)
- h. Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association (INHFA)
- i. Irish Beef and Lamb Association (IBLA)
- j. Beef Plan Movement
- k. Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS)

7. The Committee also agreed to seek written submissions from a number of stakeholders, to help inform its deliberations on the proposal. The Committee received written submissions from the following stakeholder groups, which are linked in [Appendix 1](#) of this report: Irish Grain Growers, Meat Industry Ireland, Teagasc, Irish Organic Association and the Irish Farmers' Association.

8. The Committee further agreed that, in the interests of interparliamentary cooperation on EU matters, a copy of this report will be forwarded to the appropriate Committee in the National Parliament of each EU Member State and to Ireland's MEPs.

Opinion of the Joint Committee

(1) Statement on the importance of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to Irish farming

9. The Committee firstly recognises the vital importance of CAP for the Irish farming community and for the Irish agriculture sector, now and into the future. CAP not only supports Irish farms but is paramount in supporting jobs within rural areas and for stabilising the rural economy.
10. The Committee underlines that CAP funding is a vital support for the operation of many farms in Ireland and that without the support of CAP direct payments, many Irish farms would not be able to continue their operations. The Committee notes evidence from stakeholders that net subsidies on products and production paid to the Irish agricultural sector amounted to €2.05 billion in 2024 and that direct payments still account for 84% to 129% of the total income for beef, suckler, sheep, and tillage farmers. The Committee notes analysis of Teagasc (the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities) on its National Farm Survey data for the years 2023 and 2024. This data showed that on average, 73% of farm income comes from direct payments, which make up between 98% and 165% of dry stock farmers' total income. The Committee also notes that there is a regional difference between areas which rely significantly on direct subsidies on products and productions for agricultural income, representing 30% of agricultural sector income in the Dublin and Mid-East region and 91% of agricultural sector income in the Western Region in 2024.
11. The Committee heard evidence from officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, that 75% of Ireland's EU funding stems from the CAP. Therefore, any changes proposed under the Regulation will have a material impact on Ireland's agriculture sector and rural economy. As currently proposed, there will be a reduction in Ireland's CAP funding of approx. 20-24%, which will have a materially adverse impact on the agriculture sector and rural economy of Ireland.

12. The Committee is aware that Ireland is now a net contributor to the EU budget and that funding under the CAP is the main mechanism through which Ireland directly benefits from the EU's budget. Therefore, the proposed reduction in the resources allocated to the CAP will reduce the funding within the EU budget from which Ireland benefits.

(2) New funding model under National Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)

13. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), published in July and September 2025, represents a "significant change" in how the future CAP will operate.
14. The Committee notes the significant proposal under the Regulation to remove the existing two-pillar (split between the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund & the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) funding structure for CAP and to move towards a single integrated funding framework, under the new National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs). Under this measure, Ireland is earmarked to receive €11.4 billion under the 'general allocation' for the NRPP and Ireland's proposed €8.16 billion CAP allocation will be drawn from this funding pool.
15. The Committee heard from various stakeholders, who expressed serious concerns regarding the proposal to remove the existing two-pillar funding structure. The Committee shares these concerns and favours the traditional distinction between pillar I and pillar II over the proposed NRPP convergence.
16. The Committee believes that, given the competing priorities to draw down funding from Ireland's NRPP funding allocation, including from other significant sectors of the Irish economy such as research, education, rural development, there is a risk that the agriculture sector will not be in a position to supplement Ireland's proposed CAP allocation from its allocated 'general pool' of NRPP funding. This would result in Ireland receiving a significantly lower CAP allocation, compared to its current allocation and would have a significant and detrimental impact on farming communities and the rural economy in Ireland.
17. The Committee also notes that there are certain conditions around how the remainder of the NRPP funding should be allocated, for example, 14% of the fund must be

allocated to social cohesion elements and 43% of the overall expenditure must be allocated to environmental purposes. Given the commitments to these other priority areas within the NRPP, this will put an additional demand on the 'unallocated pool' of NRPP funding. This reinforces the point that has been previously emphasised above.

18. The Committee also notes that while several schemes under CAP including LEADER, the agricultural knowledge and innovation system (AKIS) and the EU school scheme remain mandatory, there is no ringfenced funding for these schemes, as there was under previous CAP programmes and that funding for these must now be sought from within Ireland's wider €3.2 billion allocation under the NRPP. This again highlights that funding directly outside of the CAP funding envelope will be subject to significant demands from a number of competing sources.

19. The Committee highlights its concern around the removal of the second pillar and the potential impact on the funding and support provided to rural development measures, which are vital to rural communities. The Committee is aware that there is evidence of a consistent trend over the past decade of the increased at-risk-of-poverty rate in rural areas, both in Ireland and across the EU and the proposed reduction of CAP funding will only exacerbate this trend.

(3) CAP funding reduced

20. The Committee emphasises that a strong, ringfenced and adequately funded budget for CAP is Ireland's main priority for CAP post-2027 and expresses its grave concern at propositions that Ireland's CAP funding will significantly decrease under the CAP Post-2027 proposals. The Committee highlights figures provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which stated that Ireland's funding under the new CAP could amount to a significant reduction of 20-24%, compared to its funding allocation under the current CAP.

21. Although the Commission has suggested that Member States may be able to utilise some of the more general funding under the National and Regional Partnership allocation to provide additional funding for its CAP, as stated, given competing priorities

to access this funding, it is not guaranteed that the proposed CAP funding could be supplemented from the NRPP funding.

22. The Committee heard from stakeholders that to maintain the CAP budget for direct income support measures at its current level, this would require approximately 81%-101% of the remainder of proposed funds from the NRPP.
23. The Committee also emphasises the importance of the next CAP budget being reflective of rising input costs and increasing regulatory demands. The Committee notes evidence that since 2020, inflation has already eroded about one-third of the real value of CAP supports.
24. The Committee heard from stakeholders that it is essential to maintain stability in CAP funding, for farmers and for rural economy income. The farming industry is characterised by long planning cycles and stability and consistency of funding is required for farmers to plan for the future and maintain a viable business. Evidence shows that direct payments from the CAP are an essential tool to help with risk management in Irish agriculture, as they form an essential and consistent cash flow to allow for planning and the management against risk factors e.g. weather instability, volatility of the global market and its impact on agricultural and rural sectors in Ireland.
25. The Committee highlights that secure production of food is vital to protect the citizens of Europe and it is paramount that the agricultural sector is provided with sufficient funding under the new budget, to guarantee the security of food within Europe. The CAP is fundamental in ensuring the production, and security of supply, of this food.
26. The Committee notes evidence that over half of all farm families in Ireland require off-farm income to remain sustainable. Therefore, farming itself is not enough to provide an adequate income for many families, as evidenced by the reliance on direct payments and the number of farmers engaged in off-farm employment.

27. The Committee notes comments from stakeholder groups that the significant reduction in CAP funding coincides with the reality that the farming sector is increasingly being asked to meet more regulatory, environmental, and compliance demands. This is placing an unfair burden on farming communities and the Committee argues that it is simply not possible for farmers to meet these demands when funding is being reduced.

(4) Generational renewal [Articles 14-16]

28. The Committee welcomes the intention to provide greater and more comprehensive supports to younger farmers entering the profession, under measures in Articles 14-16 of the Regulation. The Committee particularly welcomes the provisions for the introduction of the mandatory Generational Renewal Strategy (Article 15) and the "Starter Pack" for young farmers (Article 16).
29. The Committee acknowledges it is vital to ensure that younger farmers are supported to enter the industry, in order to guarantee the future of farming and to support intergenerational transfer of farmland, where desired. The Committee refers to evidence from stakeholder groups, which reflects the urgent need to support younger people entering the farming profession in Ireland. The Committee heard that the average age of farmers in Ireland today is 59 and that in Ireland today only 4.3% of farmers are under the age of 35, while this figure stood at 7% in 2020 and 13% in 1990.
30. The farming sector is hemorrhaging experience, talents and skillsets and the Committee heard from stakeholders that the lack of certainty of farm incomes is one of the biggest issues facing young people entering and staying in the farming industry.
31. However, the Committee heard concerns expressed by various stakeholders regarding the measures proposed by the Commission to help achieve this objective of generational renewal. In particular, there were strong concerns expressed in relation to Article 6 (6) and the provision stating that Member States must ensure by 2032 at the latest, that individuals who have reached the national retirement age and who receive a retirement pension, will no longer be eligible to receive support under this Article.

32. The Committee also expresses its concern around this provision under Article 6 (6) as proposed. The Committee is of the opinion that this provision does not in practice help with generational renewal within farming and rather, it penalises older farmers and could result in land abandonment by older farmers and would hinder the knowledge transfer between younger and older farmers.
33. The Committee believes that new technologies and supporting knowledge transfer and farm partnerships are critical to addressing the crisis of generational renewal.

(5) LEADER Programme [Article 18]

34. The Committee acknowledges that the contribution of the LEADER Programme (LEADER) in Ireland to the development of sustainable rural areas and to building rural resilience is significant.
35. The Committee believes that the impact of LEADER on creating innovative solutions to sustain the rural economy and rural services, on supporting rural areas to protect their local environment and in addressing the reality of climate change, is evident across rural Ireland and cannot be underestimated or undervalued.
36. Through Local Development Company LAGs working proactively on the ground with a development-led approach, a high level of innovation and added value for rural areas has been generated through the delivery of LEADER. This 'multiplier effect' generates a very significant level of public and private investment into rural communities, greatly enhancing the impact of LEADER.
37. Additionally, building capacity and leadership for rural communities and the subsequent capability of rural communities to engage with and lead the development process at a local level, is a central outcome of the LEADER approach. This has been and will continue to be critical to the long-term sustainable development of rural communities, not just here in Ireland but across the EU.

38. The Committee heard the concerns of stakeholders that there is a risk that competing policy priorities for the NRPP funding will mean that funding cannot be guaranteed for the LEADER programme under the NRPP and therefore, LEADER may receive no guaranteed funding under the new budget. The Committee understands that the current LEADER programme is already underfunded, therefore any additional reduction in funds will put significant pressure on the ability of the LEADER programme to operate effectively and support community groups in enhancing local communities.

39. The Committee acknowledges concerns raised by stakeholders that certain definitions under Article 18, including the definition of the word 'beneficiary' may limit the scope of the LEADER programme.

(6) Digressive area-based income support [Article 6]

40. The Committee understands that under the Regulation, it is proposed to remove entitlements and replace this with a per-hectare system. The Committee is aware that this proposal may cause uncertainty for those who have a lease on farms and leased entitlements for a period extended into 2028 or after, as the impact of this proposed change remains uncertain.

41. The Committee heard from various stakeholders that the €20,000 threshold, from which it is proposed to reduce area-based income support granted to a farmer, is too low a threshold. The Committee is uncertain as to how reductions will be applied within digressive payment bands and questions whether the Commission has conducted a full economic impact assessment of the degressivity and capping model proposed under Article 6, in particular the impact that this threshold would have on the viability of full-time, productive beef, sheep, dairy, and tillage farms in Ireland and the EU, who will be particularly affected by this proposed change.

(7) Increase simplification of CAP measures

42. The Committee received presentations and evidence from farming organisations that bureaucracy is still a major burden on farmers and that the complexities of schemes deter some farmers from participating in them.

43. The Committee heard from stakeholders that there should be ongoing simplification of the CAP programme and associated measures. For example, application forms for schemes must be simplified, as too many schemes rely heavily on tasks where help from facilitators is required and farmers should ideally be able to complete such forms without recourse to an advisor. Another proposal from the stakeholders was that there should be fewer schemes overall and farmers should also be compensated to reflect the cost of compliance with scheme requirements.

44. The Committee believes that schemes should be examined to ascertain their effectiveness and to ascertain whether the objective of schemes are being achieved, so that these learnings can be taken into consideration and incorporated into the new proposed CAP.

(8) CAP should not be viewed as an environmental fund

45. The Committee heard that the CAP payments must remain directed towards their original purpose. If funding for CAP is to be used for environment objectives, then funding for the farming community should not be cut and funding for environmental schemes should be sourced from elsewhere or should come from the Exchequer instead.

46. The Committee is of the opinion, and is concerned, that the CAP has become a 'green payment' to fund environmental obligations and biodiversity measures under the CAP and is straying from its original purpose, which was to ensure food security, stabilise rural areas, and maintain farmer incomes.

47. The Committee also heard from stakeholders that climate-centric policies demand that lighter cattle are slaughtered at a younger age, thereby producing less beef per animal than previously. This has the oxymoronic result of a higher emission allocation per kg and these policies also substantially increase the cost per kg to the consumer, the very issue which CAP was created to resolve.

48. The Committee is of the opinion that the unbalanced policy applied to the suckler industry is already contributing to the significant declines in viability, with both suckler cow numbers and suckler farmer numbers dropping year-on-year.

Recommendations of the Joint Committee

New funding model under National Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)

49. The Committee recommends that the traditional two-pillar funding model should be retained and that CAP funding, in its entirety, must remain distinct and separate from the broader funding envelope under the NRPP.

CAP funding reduced

50. The Committee emphasises that the CAP Post-2027 must be ringfenced and adequately funded to deliver competitiveness, sustainability, viability and profitability and climate objectives and social obligations.
51. The Committee is concerned that relying on non-ringfenced funding introduces an unacceptable level of uncertainty for the Irish farming industry. The Committee emphasises that Ireland's CAP funding allocation must be clear and guaranteed and it is insupportable for the funding streams to remain unclear, given the fundamental importance of this CAP funding to Ireland and to Irish farmers. If the CAP funding to Ireland is reduced as proposed, then the Committee recommends that the national Exchequer should supplement this shortfall in funds.
52. The Committee is of the opinion that the proposed CAP budget must be designed to retain its value in real terms and, given the significant reduction in funding compared to previous programmes and the impacts of previous inflation, it must be designed with anticipated future inflationary pressures taken into account.
53. The Committee recommends that it is vital that the majority of funding from the CAP should be targeted at those who are the primary producers of food and that if the CAP budget is reduced as proposed, then farmer's incomes must be protected.

Generational renewal

54. The Committee recommends that the CAP Post-2027 must guarantee younger farmers a sufficient income, in order to ensure that farming remains an attractive and viable career option for young people. The CAP budget should be increased to guarantee that it will be possible to deliver these additional supports for younger farmers and young people should also be allowed to access funding at preferential terms, over a longer period of time to help support them.

55. The Committee believes that the Regulation should set a minimum percentage of ring-fenced funding that Member State should be spending on schemes to support young farmers.

56. The Committee recommends that Article 6 (6) should be removed and that individuals who have reached the national retirement age and who receive a retirement pension should still be eligible to receive support under this Article.

57. The Committee is in favour of the introduction of more collaborative models and farm succession arrangements, to help support generational renewal in farming. The Committee supports the introduction of installation aid to support younger farmers under Ireland's next CAP strategic plans and the introduction of a transition payment for older farmers who are leaving the sector, which could help incentivise older farmers to begin succession planning.

58. The Committee recommends that consideration is given to introducing a 'Retirement Scheme' under the new CAP, which would help contribute towards generational renewal in farming.

59. Under the young farmer scheme, the Committee recommends that there should be an opportunity for young farmers to rent land for three years, to allow them to gain entitlements over those three years.

LEADER Programme

60. The Committee emphasises its strong concern at the prospect that funding for the LEADER programme will no longer be ringfenced under the new CAP Regulation and the Committee believes that the level of LEADER funding must be sufficient to support the viability of the community-led LAG model, which has been so successful in Ireland.
61. The Committee recommends that there is a ring-fenced budget for LEADER under the CAP Post-2027 proposals and that this budget should be ring-fenced at a level not lower than the current budget and should be index-linked for inflation.
62. The Committee recommends that a compulsory base line should be re-introduced for LEADER, so that a minimum contribution to each Member State's CAP objectives would be ringfenced for LEADER and that the Government would consider co-financing the LEADER programme, as has been done previously.
63. The Committee recommends that clarity is provided around definitions within Article 18 and that the eligibility of the LEADER programme remains broad, to encompass all rural dwellers.

Increase simplification of CAP measures

64. The Committee recommends that the Commission's ongoing simplification programme and the associated measures should continue and be accelerated. CAP must be simplified and workable for farmers, it must be flexible enough to reflect our national ambition for agriculture and take account of our circumstances across economic, social, and environmental priorities.
65. The Committee recommends that duplication of schemes should be minimised and that farmers should also be compensated adequately for their participation in schemes, to reflect the costs of compliance with these schemes.
66. The Committee recommends that clawbacks, which penalise farmers who wish to leave schemes early, should be removed from the proposed new CAP.

67. The Committee is of the opinion that the proposed schemes in the CAP should incorporate 'learnings' from the previous operation of these schemes and they should be assessed during their operation to ascertain if they are achieving the intended outcomes and are beneficial to the operator of the schemes.

68. The Committee recommends that there should be greater efforts to ensure dovetailing of schemes, so that there are less gaps between schemes and to ensure more certainty for participants.

CAP should not be viewed as an environmental fund

69. The Committee believes that farmers must be supported and incentivised to transition to more sustainable agricultural practices. The principle of a Just Transitions is to leave no people, communities, economic sectors, or regions behind in the transition to a low carbon future. Farmers, foresters, fishers, and food producers want a CAP that will support their agri-enterprises, they understand the benefits of sustainable farming practice but need guarantees of support and to protect their household incomes in the long-term, while ensuring environmental protection and economic success at the same time.

70. The Committee also recommends that a separate fund should be established, outside of the CAP structure, to assist with compliance with environmental schemes and conditions.

71. The Committee supports the concept of a specific "loyalty bonus" for farmers who participate in agri-environment schemes and believes that a suite of measures and incentives should be provided to farmer's long-term, environmental on-farm projects.

72. The Committee believes that the next CAP needs to simplify the "conditionality" process that farmers must comply with to receive EU support. GAEC-7 (Crop Diversification), the 2-crop rule, needs to be removed entirely, as it is driving an exodus of smaller growers

away from the tillage sector. The requirement for three crops should only kick in at 50 hectares and above.

73. The Committee believes that the Farm-to-Fork strategy must be central to the new CAP and should continue to support transition to a more sustainable food system, based on circular economy principles.

General recommendations

74. The Committee believes that a reformed CAP must provide financial stability for farmers and underpin EU ambition for greener, more sustainable, and economically resilient farming, through targeted support. The next CAP funding model must ensure that farming in Ireland can be sustained and be able to produce quality food, with reasonable profitability and sustainability at its core. The Committee believes that when a new Multi-Annual Financial Framework is being negotiated, the negotiations on this framework should begin a year earlier than they have previously, to allow for at least a one year's lead in period for those entering the schemes, to allow time for new IT systems to be set up and to avoid delays in payments.

75. The Committee calls for a renewed focus on building sustainable and viable rural communities. There needs to be significant investment in sustainable agriculture, as well as an increased focus on tackling rural poverty and social inclusion, to protect vulnerable farm households. It is vital that investment in infrastructure in the regions and rural areas is expedited, to ensure rural economies can diversify and adapt to support thriving rural communities.

76. The Committee is of the belief that there must be proactive support for farm incomes and that solutions to income problems require a broader approach for all rural families, combining an economic and social dimension, to guarantee that progress is made in this area.

77. Under Article 11, the Committee recommends that the Government must seek the maximum flexibility in terms of Coupled Income Support for the suckler beef and ewe

flocks, including advocating for even higher thresholds under this Article, given their critical role in the national economy and landscape management.

78. The Committee believes it is important that adequate CAP supports are put in place for all stakeholders in all aspects of the agrifood production, including alternative farm enterprises such as niche tourism, SMEs and the forestry sector.

79. The Committee recommends that the number of inspections and penalties on farmers are reduced. In the case of minor infringement issues by farmers, there should be a defined period for the issue to remedied without the application of a penalty.

80. The Committee recommends that the new CAP Regulation would introduce measures to facilitate and encourage more women into farming.

81. The Committee recommends that there needs to be a facility in the new CAP that would ensure proper support is provided to help make the tillage sector in Ireland more attractive, resilient and profitable. This will also have benefits for more sustainable agriculture in Ireland.

82. The Committee recommends that there needs to be a facility in the new CAP that would fund the sheep and suckler sectors, as the numbers in these sectors are dwindling.



Aindrias Moynihan T.D.
Cathaoirleach
Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food
16th December 2025

Appendix 1 – List of written submissions by stakeholders

The Committee received written submissions from the following stakeholders:

- [Irish Grain Growers](#)
 - [Meat Industry Ireland](#)
 - [Teagasc](#)
 - [Irish Organic Association](#)
 - [Irish Farmers' Association](#)
-