

THE EU HOUSE OF CARDS



FLASH ACTION: THE EUROPEAN HOUSE OF CARDS

No Budget > No CAP > No farmers > No security

At a time when Europe faces overlapping challenges — from geopolitical instability and economic/legal uncertainty to climate change and shifting global trade — one thing is clear: **food security is security**. In other words, the EU cannot achieve true strategic autonomy without securing its agricultural sector. The cornerstone of that security is a strong, common, and well-funded agricultural policy.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is not just a historical pillar of the European Union — it remains a vital and highly relevant tool to ensure access to safe, sustainable, and affordable food across the continent. It supports millions of farmers and thousands of agri-cooperatives, sustains rural communities, and contributes to Europe's economic, environmental, and social resilience.

But today, this architecture is under threat.

The proposal to centralise EU funding into a single fund might offer budgetary flexibility, but it risks dissolving the CAP into a broader framework with less focus, fewer guarantees, and no shared vision. Replacing the two-pillar CAP with a single national programming model would weaken the single market, delay crucial investments, and create deep disparities between Member States — while threatening the income and sustainability of millions of farmers and jeopardising the stability of the agri-food chain beyond our borders.

The issue of the budget is far from a technical discussion; it is a **key political priority** — especially for agriculture. Without a clear and protected budget line to support the European agricultural framework, **European agricultural policy could collapse like a house of cards.**

That is why Copa and Cogeca are calling for a renewed commitment, starting with a **dedicated and safeguarded budget line**, and an **inflation-adjusted CAP budget** in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

This is not just a technical demand — it is a strategic necessity.

The strength of the CAP lies in its commonality. Its current structure — anchored in the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) — strikes a balance between targeted direct support and long-term investment. Merging or dissolving these funds into broader cohesion frameworks would be disastrous for rural development and the stability of the agri-food sector.

The multiple transitions required by the EU to its farming sector, will only be achieved if they are properly financed.

The CAP must remain the backbone of the EU's food and agriculture strategy, as enshrined in the EU Treaties — not just in rhetoric, but through its shared nature, structure, and dedicated resources. That is why we cannot accept the dissolution of the CAP into a single fund or any attempt at further renationalisation, nor a rushed proposal for the next CAP presented in July alongside the post-2027 MFF, without clarity on available resources, governance, or proper consultation with the sector.

Above all, we must recognise that without a secure, common approach to agriculture, there can be no lasting stability — not for farmers, not for agrifood chain, and not for Europe. As the EU charts its course for the next years, the question of the CAP budget must be seen for what it is: **a central political choice** about Europe's direction, its cohesion, and its future.

No Budget > No CAP > No Farmers > No Security. This is not a slogan — it's a real risk we must avoid!