

## **FoodDrinkEurope statement on the CAP reform proposals**

**(Brussels, 1 June 2018)** On the occasion of the adoption of the legal proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) beyond 2020, FoodDrinkEurope recalls that the Single Market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. While acknowledging the wide diversity of EU agriculture and rural areas, only a truly common agricultural policy can guarantee a strong and well-functioning Single Market.

Since the European Commission proposes to give Member States greater subsidiarity in implementing CAP interventions, including those within Pillar 1, FoodDrinkEurope recommends that the Commission play a strong role in the assessment, approval and monitoring of national CAP Strategic Plans. In particular, safeguards are essential in areas such as coupled income support to ensure a level playing-field within the Single Market for farmers and the operators they supply.

High environment and climate ambition in the next CAP will be crucial to ensure a more sustainable future for our food systems. FoodDrinkEurope believes that for the new green architecture to deliver, the flexibility of Member States should not lead to different levels of ambition and of incentives for farmers.

We support the objective to increase competitiveness in the CAP and we will be particularly vigilant that the policy continues to evolve towards more market orientation. This will allow farmers to perceive market signals and help advance the competitiveness of EU producers and manufacturers at home and abroad.

-ENDS-

*Note to the editors:*

*FoodDrinkEurope is the organisation of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (289 000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.2 million employees).*