

RASE response to European Commission's proposals to reform of the CAP

The Royal Agricultural Society has consistently supported the broad thrust of the Mid-Term Review proposals. We are however, extremely worried about the detail of some of Franz Fischler's latest suggestions.

British farmers could be facing large cuts in payments and extra bureaucracy while farmers in other countries will get off virtually scott free.

If farmers receiving over £33,000 (€50,000) are to see subsidy cuts, through compulsory modulation, of up to 13% this will affect about 16,000 British farms. And because British farms are generally larger than those in the rest of the EU we will be far worse off.

The majority of EU farmers (around 70%) will actually be exempted from cuts to support payments and extra bureaucracy because they receive less than €5000. There is a double whammy for British farmers as the money is going to the Rural Development fund and Britain is allocated only 3% of that fund.

It just does not make sense to penalise "larger" farms. It is not just big "agribusinesses" being affected; it is forward thinking, efficient family farms on a few hundred acres.

The changes are supposedly to make agriculture more market oriented. Instead, they just penalise large efficient farms and protect very small farms for social policy reasons.

Royal Agricultural Society of England
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