

## **Position paper on the Strategic Plans Regulation trilogues Governance and role of regions**

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The CAP Strategic Plan regulation will define the governance of the future CAP within the framework of the New Delivery Model. **The Coalition of European AgriRegions, the Association of European Regions for Products of Origin (AREPO), the Assembly of European Horticultural Regions (AREFLH) and Euromontana** have repeatedly voiced their concerns with regards to the lack of a common European vision on the role of regional authorities in the governance of the future CAP.

Today, many regional authorities have responsibilities as Managing Authorities for regional rural development programs. Such provisions have successfully allowed regional authorities to:

- Engage with local stakeholders in the definition and monitoring of rural development measures;
- Adapt rural development measures to local needs throughout the programming period;
- Bring the CAP closer to the beneficiaries through regional monitoring committees and local partnerships;
- Make the rural development the most effective CAP tool for the protection of the environment.

Our networks have stated in multiple occasions that **the newly proposed governance risks jeopardising all these achievements**. Especially in countries with strong regional autonomy, these changes in the governance and, as a consequence, in the development and implementation of the plans, may result in distortions and inequalities between Member States and between regions within a Member State.

**As the discussions on the role of regions in the future CAP enter the trilogue phase, we call on the co-legislators to ensure a comprehensive and common European approach to the governance of regional interventions in the future CAP. In particular, our networks support:**

- **The introduction of a clear role for regional authorities in the governance of the CAP Plans and in the management of rural development interventions;**
- **The full involvement of regional authorities in the future amendments to the CAP plans for the interventions managed at regional level;**
- **The possibility to establish regional monitoring committees;**
- **The possibility to establish annexes to the CAP plans with regional interventions.**

### **A clear role for regional authorities in the management of rural development interventions and in the governance of the CAP Plans**

The reintroduction of the regional managing authorities for rural development interventions will clarify the role of regions in the regulation, thus **placing the territorial and bottom-up approaches at the heart of the CAP and the Rural development policy in particular**. This will provide Member States and regional governments that are already working on the CAP plans with a **clearer governance framework**. It will also ensure that regional differences are taken into account in the process leading to the definition and adoption of the plans, thus bringing an overall territorial coherence to both first and second pillar interventions.

From a European perspective, it is important that such **territorial approach remains a possibility to potentially any Member State, as it is the case today.**

Finally, the absence of a direct link between regional authorities and the European Commission is not a guarantee of enhanced simplification for the CAP beneficiaries. On the contrary, **adding new layers to the decision-making process could undermine simplification efforts for the beneficiaries.**

*For these reasons, the networks:*

- *Welcome the overall approach of the Parliament, stressing the importance of involving regional authorities to the elaboration of the CAP plans, especially in regard to Articles 1, 7, 8, 9, 28 and 73.*
- *Welcome both the European Parliament and Council amendments to Article 110 with regard to the possibility for Member State to designate regional managing authorities.*
- *While welcoming the reference to constitutional and institutional provisions in Article 110 introduced by the Council, the networks stress that the designation of regional managing authorities shall remain a possibility for all Member States, as it is the case today.*
- *Oppose the principle of national managing authorities being the sole interlocutor of the European Commission. The regulation shall provide more flexibility for Member States and regional authorities to define their future relationship with the Commission.*

## **Ensure that regional authorities are fully involved in the future modifications of the CAP plans for the interventions managed at regional level**

In the case of interventions managed at regional level, it is **fundamental that regions are fully and directly involved in the modifications of the interventions falling under their competence.** This would avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, thus resulting in a faster and simplified process that would allow to react quicker to crisis or any other problem involving only a limited number of regions.

*For these reasons, the networks welcome the European Parliament's amendments to Article 107.*

## **The possibility to establish regional monitoring committees**

Regional monitoring committees involving a broad range of local stakeholders (public authorities, farmers' organisations and other economic and social partners, civil society representatives...) play a **crucial role in ensuring that local needs are taken into account during both the development and the implementation phases of the rural development interventions.** They also establish a direct link between the European Commission and the rural areas, creating opportunities for dialogue.

In the case of interventions managed at regional level, the establishment of regional partnerships and regional monitoring committees should be made possible also within the framework of the CAP Strategic Plans and alongside the national monitoring committee.

*For these reasons, the networks welcome the European Parliament and the Council amendments to art. 111 reintroducing regional monitoring committees.*

## The possibility to establish annexes for regional interventions

In order to provide more readability and coherence to regionally managed interventions for rural development, Member States shall have the possibility to establish annexes to the CAP Strategic Plans with all the relevant details and information concerning regional interventions. The regulation shall not prevent such possibility.

*For these reasons, the networks welcome the principles introduced by European Parliament's Article 100a New.*

**The introduction of these improvements to the CAP Strategic Plans proposal for a regulation will re-establish a common European framework to the CAP territorial approach and ensure that regional authorities are fully involved in the governance of regional interventions in the future CAP. This will result in a more effective implementation of the CAP strategic plans at territorial level.**

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*The **Coalition of European AGRIREGIONS** is the voice of European regions mobilised to defend a fair and sustainable future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the role of regions in its implementation. It represents 16 regions from 7 Member States: Açores, Andalusia, Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Bretagne, Castilla y León, Emilia-Romagna, Extremadura, Lombardia, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Pays de la Loire, Sibiu County, Toscana, Wielkopolska.*

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*The **Assembly of European Horticultural Regions (AREFLH)** is a European association representing 16 EU regions and 35 Associations of Producer Organisations across 10 European countries. Its main missions are: to defend the economic and social interests of the fruit, vegetable and horticultural sectors in Europe; to foster exchanges of best practices, partnerships and joint projects between regions and professional organisations; to actively seek new solutions for the main issues affecting the future of the fruit and vegetable production in Europe.*

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*The **Association of European Regions for Products of Origin (AREPO)** brings together 33 regions from 8 EU Member States and more than 700 associations of producers of Geographical Indications from these regions, equivalent to more than 50% of European GIs. AREPO aims to promote and defend the interests of producers and consumers in European regions committed to promoting quality agri-food products.*

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***Euromontana** is the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organisations throughout greater Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes. Euromontana's mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas.*

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