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Från: CEJA - European Council of Young Farmers

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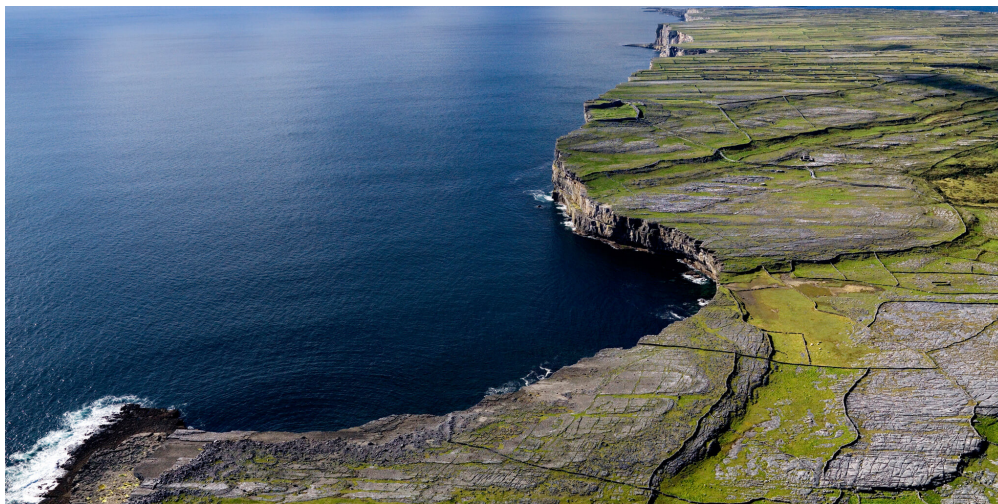
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What's on next week?

- **19 February:** CEJA Presidency meeting
- **19 February:** [AGRIFISH Council](#)
- **20 February:** CDG on Milk
- **20 February:** Jeunes Agriculteurs group from Brittany visit the CEJA office
- **21-22 February:** [COMAGRI](#)
- **22 February:** [Meeting](#) of sub-group on innovation

What's new with CEJA?

Training course for young aspiring food entrepreneurs - fantastic opportunity!



The Erasmus+ project [Creating Entrepreneurs in Food](#) of which CEJA is a partner is offering a **5-day training programme** in Galway (Ireland) from **12 to 16 of March**.

This programme is aimed at providing knowledge and work-based skills for those who are involved or interested in **short food supply chains**. Participants will work on plans from idea generation to packaging and finance. Visits are also planned to discover innovative food businesses (one of them will take place in the magnificent Aran Islands!) The agenda of the 5 days is available [here](#).

For those who are interested in food entrepreneurship, and have a sufficient level of English do not hesitate to complete the [application form](#) and send it to office@ceja.eu **by 28 February at the latest**.

CEJA will reimburse participants' travel expenses up to 275€ and other living expenses up to 385€.

CEJA Seminar in the UK - registration closed!

Registration for CEJA's UK Seminar in March is now closed and we are looking forward to seeing those of you attending!

You can view the **draft agenda** [here](#) and our briefing note on Brexit [here](#).

We are still welcoming comments on our draft Brexit [document](#). Please send them to allusers@ceja.eu by **22 February**.

News from young farmers

Happy Birthday to ASAJA-Sevilla!



12 February: ASAJA, one of CEJA's members from Spain, celebrated its 40th anniversary this week with the participation of Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Phil Hogan.

Case study from Irish National Rural Network



The [Irish National Rural Network](#), a component of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, published a [case study](#) about 28-year-old farmer Leo

Morrissey. It details his **progression in farming** since he went through a **successful farm transfer process** with his parents and older brother.

A message from the CEJA President



CEJA President Jannes Maes is to meet with representatives from [Eurostat](#), the EU's statistical office, later this month **to discuss gathering data about young farmers**. He is looking forward to collaborating with them on information they may need about young farmers and requests that member organisations be prepared to answer any questions they may send through CEJA in future.

What's happening in the EU?

Definitely not a love letter: Copa-Cogeca urge against concessions in Mercosur talks



15 February: [Copa and Cogeca](#), the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU, sent a letter to Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Commissioners Phil Hogan (agriculture and rural development) and Cecilia Malmstrom (trade) in order to **oppose the EU giving further concessions on agriculture** in return for gains in other economic sectors to Mercosur countries.

The organisation spoke out against the use of agriculture as a **“bargaining chip”** for increased market access in industrial goods, such as cars and car parts, in bilateral trade talks with the bloc.

“We have never asked for other sectors to be traded off in favour of the agricultural sector, even though we had potential offensive interests”, said Copa and Cogeca Presidents Joachim Rukwied and Thomas Magnusson.

Copa and Cogeca’s press release can be accessed [here](#).

Next MFF budget to be above 1%

14 February: EU Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, Günther Oettinger, confirmed that the proposal on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) that will set the budget at more than 1% of the EU's GDP. **Commissioner Oettinger called on Member States to increase their contributions (to a figure between 1.1% and 1.2%)** in order to face the new challenges the EU must meet (managing migration, increasing defence capacity, etc.) and support existing policies (CAP and Cohesion Policy). He pushed for **a situation where agriculture wouldn't be opposed to security and defence**.

The Communication of the European Commission, '[A new, modern MFF for an EU that delivers efficiently on its priorities post-2020](#)', introduces a series of policy choices for the future CAP to be sure that it will enhance “its European added value

by reflecting a higher level of environmental and climate ambition and addressing citizens' expectations for their health, environment and climate".

Major growth of European organic market

14 February: During the [Biofach organic trade fair](#) in Nuremberg, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture and the Agricultural Market Information Company presented research which shows that **all major organic markets in the EU saw double-digit growth** while organic farmland area increased by 8.2% in the EU. The value of European and EU organic markets more than doubled during the period 2007-2016, and in 2016 the European organic market grew by 11.4%.

More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

European Ombudsman calls for transparency



13 February: After a detailed inquiry and a public consultation, the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, stated that **the Council must be more open in its negotiations**. "It's almost impossible for citizens to follow the legislative discussions in the Council between national government representatives," she said.

Considering that this "behind-closed-doors" approach risks alienating citizens and feeding negative sentiment, O'Reilly published a [list of recommendations](#) to make the Council more transparent by giving access to governments' decisions in order to avoid "the 'blame Brussels' culture".

Family farming crucial for sustainability

9 February: [FAO](#) Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, explained that as well as playing a vital part in the "eradication of poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition", **family farms play a central role in "preserving natural resources**

and biodiversity". During a meeting with a Community of Portuguese Language Countries, he called for support for family farming with a commitment from governments, allocation of resources and social dialogue.

Campaign from US National Farmers Union to launch a Farm Bill in 2018



7 February: The US [National Farmers Union](#) has called on Congress to pass a **Farm Bill in 2018** with a strong safety net to help them going through the "**worst economic slide in generations**". Their [campaign](#) asks representatives to "strengthen programmes that support family farm agriculture, vibrant rural communities, a clean environment and hungry Americans."

The US Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced the [2018 Farm Bill and Legislative Principles](#). This set of principles developed by [USDA](#) would be aimed at helping farmers to face economic stress, **increasing access to land and capital for young farmers** and improving investment to enhance market competitiveness.

Photo of the week!





CEJA celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year!
Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming celebrations.

Civil Dialogue Groups

CDG documents available

The documents and presentations concerning all the Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) that CEJA experts attend are available on the European Commission website to view and download. You can access all the CDG documents and presentations divided according to sector using this [link](#).



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