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**The next CEJA newsletter will be a special edition about the General Assembly**

## **What's on next week?**

- **10-17 August:** CEJA office closed
- **22-26 August:** CEJA office closed (for General Assembly)
- **23-24 August:** CEJA General Assembly in Maribor (Slovenia)

## **What's new with CEJA?**

## General Assembly registration closed - see you in August!



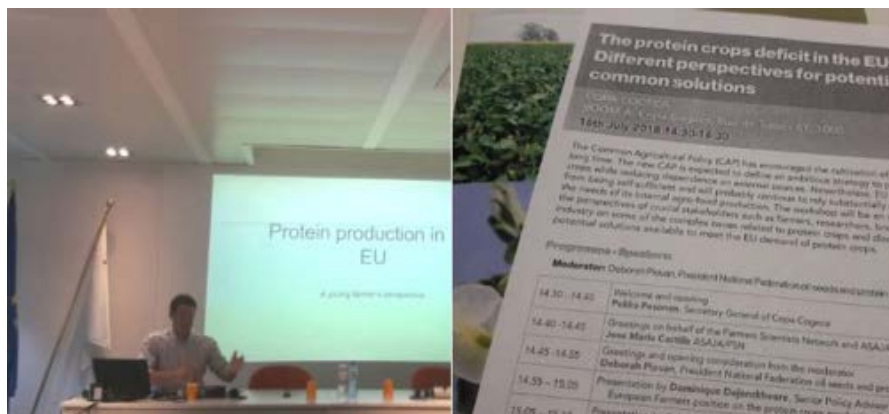
Registration for CEJA's General Assembly is now closed. Thank you to all who registered, we are looking forward to seeing you in August!

The General Assembly will take place in Maribor (Slovenia) from 23 to 26 August. We will discuss the future CAP and CEJA's internal regulation, as well as participate in the activities ZSPM has planned.

Here is the [provisional agenda](#), [presentation of the fair](#) and [updated practical travel information](#).

Do not hesitate to contact the CEJA Secretariat if you have any queries or need information, using the following email address: [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu)

## CEJA President at protein crop deficit workshop



**16 July:** CEJA President Jannes Maes spoke at a workshop on protein crops and their deficit in the EU. The event, organised by the FSN and ASAJA, and moderated by Confagricoltura's Deborah Piovan, gathered **stakeholders from across the agricultural spectrum** to share their views in panel discussions followed by question and answer sessions.

Jannes presented the **perspective of young farmers** and how they can contribute to improving protein crop production in the EU. "At the farm level, **the challenge of the protein deficit is financial**. Societal concerns are very important, but as a farmer I currently rely on prices determined on the international market and this can be difficult," he said.

The Commission will present a **draft EU Protein Plan** at a conference in Vienna on 22-23 November. The final report, which will examine the current supply and demand of plant proteins in the EU, will be published by the end of the year.

## Calls & Opportunities



- The Commission would like to receive feedback on the draft act concerning **simplified rules for the EAFRD support to young farmers, income stabilisation tool and investments**. The deadline is 2 August. Further information can be found [here](#).
- EIP-AGRI launched a **call for experts for two new Focus Groups on non-chemical weed management in arable cropping systems, and pests and diseases of the olive tree**. The groups are expected to work for **around 12 months and meet face-to-face twice**. Further information is available [here](#). If you are interested, you have **until 10 September to submit your application** following [this link](#).
- The [roadmap](#) for the evaluation of the EU agricultural promotion policy has been published. The reformed promotion policy will be **evaluated by an external expert**. The process should start at the **beginning of 2019**. Stakeholders will be consulted during the evaluation process and through a public consultation.

# What's happening in the EU?

## First AGRIFISH Council under the Austrian Presidency



**16 July:** The first [AGRIFISH Council](#) under the Austrian Presidency saw Juliane Bogner-Strauß, the Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family and Youth, promise to **guide discussions** on the CAP reform package, **strengthen the position of farmers in the food chain**, and **monitor agricultural markets and bilateral trade negotiations** over the course of Austria's six-month mandate.

During his [intervention](#), Commissioner Hogan said the CAP's new delivery model is based on **true subsidiarity with a strong EU framework**. This will guarantee the common nature of the policy, as well as a level playing field and the integrity of the single market.

He presented the simplification measures in the future CAP. These include the possibility for Member States to **define crop rotation requirements** better adapted to farming systems, the **reduction of requirements for young farmers** to receive their top-up and installation aid, as well as the **reduction of eligibility criteria for on-farm investments** and the better use of technology. A majority of the delegations present highlighted that greater simplification and subsidiarity must remain at the core of the debate on the future CAP.

The [Joint Research Centre's](#) Vladimír Šucha also contributed stating that the optimisation of emerging technologies and better data sharing will create a significant change in CAP financial management and controls, as well as reducing the number of on-the-farm checks.

There was also general support for Polish Minister Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski's call for exceptional measures to help **farmers affected by drought**. Commissioner Hogan [informed](#) those present that despite the drought, there had been **no evidence of a rise in feed or other input prices**. He added that the Commission had allowed a **derogation from certain greening rules** for some Member States.

Eight Member States (FI, DK, EE, LV, LT, LU, NL, SE) called for **simpler rules on conditionality** in order to make environmental measures more effective. The common rules to be retained should only be "relevant and necessary for all farmers".

Petre Daea, the Romanian Agriculture Minister, asked Member States for EU-level financial support in helping pig farmers affected by **African Swine Fever (ASF)**. He received a generally

positive response from those present. On 6 September, a ministerial conference on animal diseases, including ASF, will take place in Brussels.

In other news, France and Germany called on the Commission to **maintain CAP spending at current levels for 2021-2027**. They also requested that direct support be better targeted, that the policy's overall environmental ambition be increased and for the strengthening of risk management tools. The joint memorandum is available in [French](#) and [German](#).

The CEJA Secretariat made a [briefing note](#) on this month's Council and the Commission and JRC [presentations](#) are also accessible. The next AGRIFISH Council will take place on 15 and 16 October in Luxembourg.

## UK White Paper: post-Brexit agriculture updates



**12 July:** The UK government published a [White Paper](#) on Brexit. The document calls for an "association agreement" which would include a **"free-trade area" for goods**. There would also be a **limited alignment of rules on agriculture** making a physical border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland unnecessary.

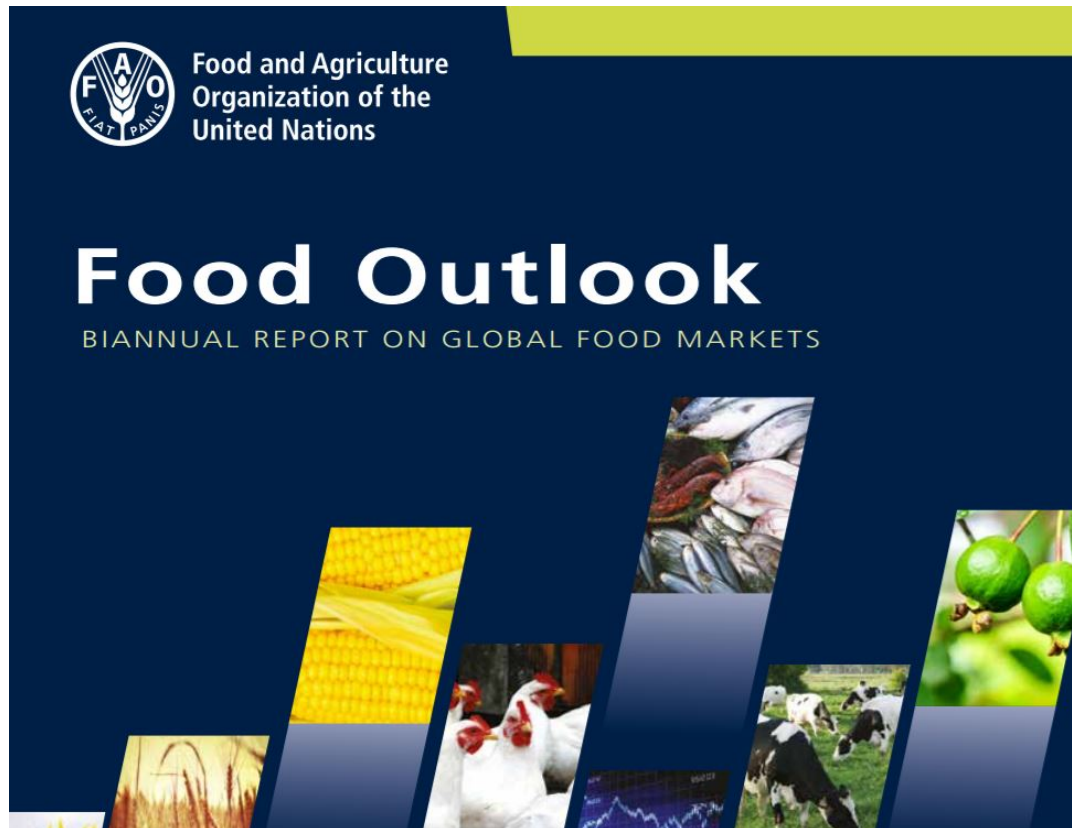
The UK government explained that its plan would **protect integrated supply chains** such as the meat and dairy ones. Also included is the outline of a **UK scheme for Geographical Indications (GIs)**, which would be open to applications for recognition from UK and non-UK sources.

The Presidents of four of the UK's farmers' organisations (Minette Batters - National Farmers' Union, John Davies - NFU Cymru, Andrew McCornick - NFU Scotland, Ivor Ferguson - Ulster



Farmers' Union) [welcomed](#) the White Paper on Brexit. They emphasised the **importance of free and frictionless trade** between the EU and the UK for food and farming products.

## FAO news: fall in global food prices and growing import costs



**10 July:** According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), **world agricultural commodity prices fell in June** for the first time in 2018. This happened despite lower production prospects and is largely the result of the effect of **trade tensions on markets**. The [FAO Food Price Index](#) averaged 173.7 points in June, a reduction of 1.3% from May. This was mostly due to lower wheat, maize and vegetable oil prices.

The [FAO Food Outlook report](#) demonstrated that **spending on food imports around the world has tripled since 2000**. However, it is five times more significant in the world's poorest countries. The report also confirms that the global cost of food imports was \$1.43 trillion (€1.22 trillion) in 2017. Greater international trade in fish and cereals will likely lead to a further 3% rise in the cost of imports this year.

### Trade: EU-Japan; no Mercosur deal yet; reports

**17 July:** EU and Japanese leaders signed an [Economic](#)

### MEPs agree on dual quality recommendations

**12 July:** The European

Leaders signed an [Economic Partnership Agreement](#) this week that will offer **major gains** for European beef, pork, cheese and wine exporters in return for increased market access for Japanese car parts. The European Parliament will likely vote on the deal before the end of the year.

Following the AGRIFISH Council, Commissioner Hogan stated the completion of an [EU-Mercosur trade deal](#) **was not likely to take place soon**.

The latest EU Agri-food trade [report](#) shows **record levels for EU agri-food exports** valued at €11.2 billion and a trade surplus of €1.2 billion.

Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) stated that products that differ between countries should be **labelled and branded differently** so that consumers are not misled.

Tests carried out in Member States, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, showed that some goods sold under the same brand differ in composition.

A report on the subject was [passed](#) by 33 votes to 3, with one abstention. The Committee also recommended **measures at EU and national level** to tackle dual quality products.

## Photo of the week!



CEJA celebrates its 60th birthday this year and we're already looking forward to the party

on 4 December. Stay tuned for updates!

## 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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