



[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

## What's on next week?

- **15 April:** [AGRIFISH Council](#) (Luxembourg)
- **15-17 April:** International Summit of Young Farmers (Paris)
- **15-18 April:** [European Parliament Plenary](#) (Strasbourg)
- **19-22 April:** CEJA office closed for Easter
- **26 April:** Sugar Market Observatory

**The next CEJA newsletter will be published on 26 April**

## What's new with CEJA?

### CEJA working group and EU Young Farmer Speed Dating





**8-9 April:** CEJA delegates gathered in Brussels earlier this week for an **"EU Young Farmer Speed Dating"** event in which they had the opportunity to meet candidate MEPs to discuss the **challenges young farmers are facing** and what the **possible solutions** could be.

The event was also an occasion to launch the **"Empowering Young Farmers and Rural Youth" manifesto** that CEJA co-authored with Rural Youth Europe and MIJARC Europe. Read the press release [here](#).

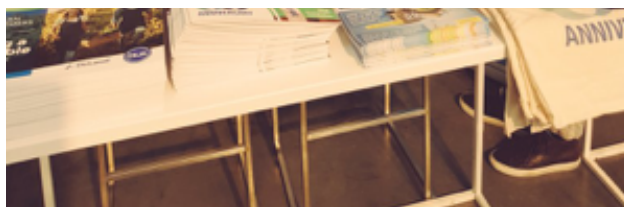
Delegates then discussed **farmer well-being** during a working group, which included interventions from the Belgian organisations Agricall and Vzw Boeren, as well as DG Employment. The meeting finished with an update on the CAP reform and a presentation of the CEJA General Assembly that will be held in partnership with LRF and DeLaval on 27-29 June in Sweden.

All the **presentations** from the day, as well as the "Empowering Young Farmers and Rural Youth" manifesto are available [here](#).

The next CEJA meeting will be the **Presidium**. It will take place in Brussels on **27-28 May**.

## CEJA at networX





**11-12 April:** CEJA participated in the [European Network for Rural Development's networX](#) event in Brussels where it had a stand about European young farmers. The event gathered **representatives from all over Europe** and beyond who are involved in rural development programmes, projects or representation.

The interactive format of the event encouraged **time and space for informal discussions** and the **sharing of experiences**. There were also interventions during the opening plenary from EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, and Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas.

### **Two new Presidents at CEJA member organisations**



CEJA would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations to **Samuel Vandaele from Jeunes Agriculteurs (France)** and **Thomas Duffy from Macra na Feirme (Ireland)**, who were both newly elected Presidents of their respective organisations. We look forward to seeing you at CEJA working groups and seminars in the months ahead and wish you all the best.

## Opportunity for EU young farmers to participate in AgriCord AGM!



[AgriCord](#) is looking for **six EU young farmers** to participate in its [AGM](#) on **15-16 May in Rotterdam**. All costs for transportation and accommodation will be covered. The six selected young farmers will **join a group of six young farmers from Africa** and discuss the [Task Force Rural Africa](#). If you would like to participate, fill in this [form](#) and send it to [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu) before 16 April at noon.

### Call for videos!



Dear members,

In the run-up to the **EU elections on 23-26 May**, we would like to share **videos** of you explaining why you will be voting.

The video should be:

1-minute long (maximum) and can be filmed on a phone  
Ideally one version in English and one in your native language

Start by introducing yourself

Answer the question: Why are you voting?

[Here](#) is an example.

Please send your videos to [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu) or via WhatsApp (Fiona: 0032470432904) as soon as possible.

We will **share them on social media** using the hashtag: **#thistimeimvoting**

If you want to register on the [thistimeimvoting.eu](https://thistimeimvoting.eu) website you can do so via this [link](#).

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

**Thank you!**

## What's happening in the EU?

### Timer set for a Halloween Brexit



**10-11 April:** The announcement came at 2AM on 11 April that UK Prime Minister Theresa May had accepted an offer from EU-27 leaders to **extend the Article 50 process until 31 October**, bringing the final leaving date up to the end of the current Commission mandate. This was followed by a Summit in Brussels.

While the "flexextension", as EU Council President Donald Tusk called it, was ultimately offered to May, some were not happy with giving the UK more time, notably France's President Emmanuel Macron.

The new offer means **the UK can end its EU membership earlier**, if the House of Commons votes in favour of the Withdrawal Treaty. Indeed, if the UK parliament can pass the Withdrawal Treaty in the first three weeks of May, the UK will not have to take part in the European elections.



## EU must assist farmers in the event of "no-deal" Brexit



**8 April:** Commissioner Phil Hogan [announced](#) that the EU has a “**legal obligation**” to assist farmers as well as the agri-food sector more broadly if there is a “no-deal” Brexit. Concretely, this would include measures such as **public intervention, private storage aid, withdrawal schemes** and **targeted aid tailored to the sectors and Member States** that are particularly exposed.

The Commissioner described the EU-27 and the UK as “**very significant trade partners**”. Indeed, latest figures indicate that the remaining Member States benefit from a €25 billion trade surplus with the UK in agri-food products and exports worth over €40 billion annually.

## Council endorses UTPs Directive



**9 April:** European Affairs Ministers have formally approved the [Directive on Unfair Trading Practices \(UTPs\)](#) in the agriculture and food supply chain. The Directive had previously been agreed upon by MEPs and Council negotiators on 19 December 2018. The **new EU-wide framework bans up to 16 unfair commercial practices** in the food supply chain, as well as applying to suppliers with a maximum annual turnover of €350 million.

Member States have **24 months after the entry into force of the Directive** (the fifth day after its publication in the Official Journal) to transpose it into national law and six more months to apply its provisions.

### MEPs call for well-funded crisis reserve

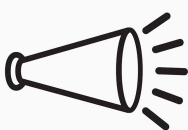


**8 April:** MEPs in the Parliament's AGRI Committee passed the final CAP report on the Policy's **horizontal regulation** on Monday. Deputies said the crisis reserve should be financed **as an addition to CAP direct support and rural development funding**. The initial budget should be €400 million, with further spending added to amounts that remain unspent from the previous year.

If beneficiaries **do not comply with conditionality rules** related to the environment, animal welfare or food quality, they should **lose 10% of their farm income** (up from 5% currently) and should continue to lose 15% if they intentionally disregard the rules.

The adopted text will be voted on during plenary only after the Parliamentary elections in May. More information is available [here](#).

## Calls & Opportunities



- CEJA's associate member, the Serbian Young Farmers Association

(SUMP), is inviting CEJA representatives to the **"Young farmers from Serbia and EU" conference on 11 May 2019** during an international [agricultural fair](#) in Novi Sad, Serbia. Meals and accommodation will be covered by SUMP. Here is the [agenda](#) and [invitation](#). Email [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu) before **15 April** if you would like to attend.

- [EIP-AGRI](#) has opened a call for **suggestions for possible topics for discussion in focus groups**. Have an idea to spark innovation? Then fill in [this form](#) before **6 May**.
- [Calls for proposal](#) for the **LIFE programme** which is the EU's funding instrument for the **environment and climate action**, have been launched, with the **deadline for concept notes on 17 June 2019**.
- The European Network for Rural Development has published a [brochure](#) on **generational renewal in agriculture** and the different **projects** taking place around the EU to encourage it.

## CEJA in the press

No.28-19

### AGRA FACTS

10/04/2019

The latest EU agriculture, environment & trade news

Editors: Rose O'Donovan & Chris Lyddon, 53 Rue d'Arion, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel:+32.2.2301122 Fax:+32.2.2306333

- **UK STAYS IN EU UNTIL OCTOBER 31 AFTER MAY ACCEPTS EU-27 LEADERS' OFFER**
- **EU'S EXECUTIVE HAS "LEGAL OBLIGATION" TO ASSIST FARMERS IN 'NO-DEAL', HOGAN**
- **AGRI MEPS CALL FOR WELL-FUNDED CRISIS RESERVE IN MUELLER'S FUTURE CAP REPORT**
- **TRADE UPDATES: US targets EU cheese & wine in aircraft subsidy row; US-China trade pact;**
- **INTERNATIONAL: NGOs call on EU to protect Amazon; RSPO consultation on smallholders;**
- **IN BRIEF: Council OK on UTPs; Estonian coalition; Rural youth launches manifesto; FAO;**

#### **UK STAYS IN EU UNTIL OCTOBER 31 AFTER MAY ACCEPTS EU-27 LEADERS' OFFER**

UK Prime Minister Theresa May accepted an offer from EU-27 leaders to extend the Article 50 process until Oct 31 at the extraordinary Summit in Brussels this evening\*, bringing the final leaving date up to the end of the current Commission mandate. There is also a plan to hold a review of the deadline in June. Agreement was reached at around midnight, after which the compromise was presented to May. Council President Donald Tusk announced her acceptance on Twitter just before 2am local time (April 11) with the words "EU27-UK have agreed a flexible extension until Oct 31." "This means an additional six months for the UK to find the best possible solution," the former Polish Premier elaborated, urging Westminster "not to waste this time". The compromise means the UK can end its EU membership earlier, if the House of Commons votes through the Withdrawal Treaty. During the extension, the UK would remain a full Member State, Tusk clarified, adding that "in any event, the UK can revoke Article 50 at any time, as stated by the European Court of Justice."

Before the EU-27 leaders sat down for deliberations over dinner, there was a presentation of just over an hour from May, where she set out the case for an extension first made in her letter to Tusk on April 5 [see AF27-19]. When leaders took a break at around 11.30pm, it became clear that French President Emmanuel Macron was the one holding out for a shorter extension, saying the 'no-deal' threat should remain & there were insufficient guarantees the British government would act as a responsible member of the bloc. Juncker spoke strongly against the idea of preventing a UK Commissioner from sitting during the extension, reminding leaders that the job of a member of the EU executive is to work on behalf of all Member States rather than just represent one. Discussions resumed after midnight & with 17 leaders pushing for a long extension, others ready to acquiesce & France's Macron insisting it be kept short, a compromise position around Oct 31 emerged.

Tusk wrote to heads of state & government on April 9 advising them of May's extension request [see AF27-19]. He wanted leaders to consider the demand, given the "risks posed by a no-deal Brexit for people & businesses on both sides of the English Channel." He pointed out that "our experience so far, as well as the deep divisions within the House of Commons, give us little reason to believe that the ratification process can be completed by the end of June," the deadline proposed by May. "Granting such an extension would increase the risk of a rolling series of short extensions & emergency summits, creating new cliff-edge dates," he said. The continued uncertainty would be "bad for our businesses & citizens" & there would be "a risk of an accidental no-deal Brexit." He therefore proposed a "flexextension," which would end automatically once both sides had ratified the Withdrawal Agreement. The date had the advantage that it would mean Britain

**8-12 April: The news of CEJA's "EU Young Farmer Speed Dating" event and**



On 12 April, the news of CEJA's 20 Young Farmer Speed Dating event and manifesto launch was **picked up by a number of media outlets** in Brussels and further afield, including AGRA FACTS, [Agriland](#) as well as being [shared](#) by AGIA and [written about](#) by Jeunes Agriculteurs on their website.

## Photo of the week!



Happy Easter from the CEJA Secretariat!

## Civil Dialogue Groups

### CDG documents available

The **documents and presentations** concerning all the Civil Dialogue Groups that CEJA experts attend are available on the European Commission's [website](#) to view and download.

## Disclaimer

CEJA's weekly newsletter **is for internal use only**. The board, staff and members of CEJA's member organisations are the only people entitled to view its content. It is forbidden to copy, forward, or in any way reveal the contents of this newsletter to anyone who is not part of a CEJA member organisation. The integrity and security of this newsletter cannot be guaranteed over the Internet. Therefore, CEJA will not be held liable for any damage caused by its messages. If you wish to **unsubscribe** from the CEJA newsletter please email: [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu).



Like the CEF  
Project [Facebook](#)  
[page](#) and follow  
the project  
on [Twitter](#)!



Visit the [FAO](#)  
[Family Farming](#)  
[Knowledge](#)  
[Platform](#) (FFKP) to  
find out recent  
developments and  
follow the



Visit the SEMA II  
Project [website](#)!

FOLLOW THE  
FFKP on [Twitter!](#)



Copyright © 2017 - LIST: CEJA  
All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu)

Belgium  
1040 Brussels  
67 Rue de la Loi, 7th Floor  
CEJA

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

This email was sent to [margita.tornroth@slc.fi](mailto:margita.tornroth@slc.fi)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
CEJA · Rue Belliard, 23a, CEJA bte 8 · Brussels 1000 · Belgium

