

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar

Common Agricultural Policy reform: next steps and future of the UK farming industry

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 6th December 2012

Venue: Council Room, ICO Conference Centre, 22 Berners Street, London W1T 3DD



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Tim Farron MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hill Farming
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Latest on the reform process: an update from the European Commission**
Gwilym Jones, International and Legal Affairs, Cabinet of Commissioner Ciolos, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **Inside the European policy debate: a greener, fairer CAP?**
As negotiations progress, what should be done to improve proposals for reform? What should be the priorities for 'greening' measures? Should there be a greater emphasis on simplifying the CAP? What is the state of play of discussions on the next financial framework, and how will the CAP be affected?
William Bain MP, Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2010-2011)
Alun Davies AM, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes, Welsh Government
Julie Girling MEP, Conservative Spokesman on Agriculture and Member, Committees on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Fisheries
Stuart Agnew MEP, UKIP Spokesman on Agriculture and Member, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.55 **At the negotiating table - ensuring the best deal for the UK**
Following the initial response from the UK Government stating that reform proposals 'fall short', which proposals are the focus of negotiations for the UK? How far has it been possible to build alliances with other Member States on these issues? How are views presented in the Department's consultation on reform being used to inform the UK's negotiating stance?
Martin Nesbit, Director, EU and International Affairs, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.05 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Tim Farron MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hill Farming
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Neil Parish MP, Member, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee
- 11.35 - 12.00 **The impact of reform on UK farmers**
Which areas of proposed reform are of most concern to UK farmers? Should more be done to clarify how greening measures will be implemented in the UK? Is there a need for more support for farmers during the transition period?
Peter Kendall, President, NFU
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.45 **Addressing challenges for the reform process and the future of the UK farming industry**
As proposals for reform are being negotiated through the European Parliament and Agriculture Committee, what should be the priorities for the UK's negotiating stance? With 'greening' proposals a key area of discussion, what should be the priorities for reform, and should more be done to recognise existing UK agri-environment schemes? What challenges does the transition to a Basic Payment Scheme pose for farmers across the UK? Should more be done to strengthen transitional arrangements for direct payments in 2013? Does the proposed reform go far enough towards its aim of enhancing competitiveness? What would be the impact of a protracted negotiating period for UK farmers, and should more be done to push forward with reform?
Vicki Swales, Head of Land Use Policy, RSPB Scotland
Dr Paul Wilson, Chief Executive, Rural Business Research and Associate Professor of Agricultural Management and Economics, University of Nottingham
Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones, Principal, Agri Advisor Solicitors
Edward Barker, Agricultural Adviser, Country Land and Business Association
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 - 12.55 **Taking forward CAP reform: a response to the morning's discussion and next steps**
Gwilym Jones, International and Legal Affairs, Cabinet of Commissioner Ciolos, European Commission
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Neil Parish MP, Member, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum