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– Evaluation –**









No	Chapter/Subject	Discussion	Overall evaluation		Comments	
			Ministers	CEJA	Ministers	CEJA
<b>1.</b>	<b>Farm succession</b>					
1.1.	European and national political framework	Foreseeability/ Stability	☺	☹	Existence of long-term.	<i>There is a real problem of instability. MTR changed in the fundamental reform of the CAP. Extension of election intervals desired</i>
1.2.	Legislative frame	Favourable legislation as regards succession	☺	☺	Consider: – the interests of young successor farmers, – the conditions proposed for older farmers, – handing down of inheritance/handing down of farms.	
		well regulated statute of the agricultural holding	☺	☺		<i>Problems especially if there are several owners. Little provision for statute on spouses.</i>
1.3.	Specialised advise	Availability	☺	☺☺	... of increasing importance. Ensure that state advisory services are not neglected (abandoned).	<i>High cost of qualified advisors.</i>
		Competence	☺☺	☺		

1.4.	Farm land	Price			Price and availability vary considerably from one region to another. Problems in particular in urban and out-of-town regions characterised by high population density. Competition with other economic sectors. Ensure favourable legislation as regards succession.	<i>In many regions, availability limited and prices very high. Prices do not bear any relation to soil productivity. The price of farming land is artificially stimulated by over-obvious state aid. Increasing pressure due to a continuous loss of farming land to society: ecological adjustments, building land, ...</i>
		Availability				
1.5.	Image of the profession	Image of the agricultural profession in society			Heavily dependent on the degree of food safety offered and the presence/absence of foodstuff crises. Growing gap between the agricultural sector and society in general. Ignorance of the farming world generates a negative image which is often unjustified.	<i>Unappreciated profession, far from the realities of city-dwellers. State aid harmful to farming's image. Farmers have a duty to promulgate the real image of modern farming.</i>
1.6.	Economy	sufficient economic size of the farms to be overtaken			Considerable differences depending on region, degree of specialisation and technical/economic orientation. Question mark over market regulatory systems (quotas). Costs of succession ⇒ need for favourable legislation.	<i>... either too small or too big and too expensive ...</i>













2. Farm structure						
2.1.	Economic size	Average economic size of farms is suitable			cf. point 1.6.	<i>difficult to develop the economic dimension at the rate required by technical innovation in farming.</i>
		Possibility of access to additional rights of production in order to increase the economic size of the farms			Over-expensive purchased rights of production compromise profitability. Development of farm structure slowed down.	<i>Purchase price of rights of production too high. Need for a policy oriented towards installed young farmers. Centralised management of rights of production essential in order to limit prices.</i>
		Encouragement of initiatives of diversification in order to increase the economic size of the farms			Increase the economic dimension of farms via aid under the second pillar.	<i>Make additional efforts. Increased multifunctionality could improve the image of farming in society, but beware the additional workload.</i>
2.2.	Family farms	Acceptable workload in the family farms	 		Depends on the structure and technical-economic orientation of farms. Often requires the cooperation of all family members. Develop services to help find temporary workers.	<i>The workload is comparable to that of other independent employees, but the level of income is inadequate. Young heads of farms often do not have enough time for their private life, and remain isolated.</i>
2.3.	Agricultural employees	Availability of qualified agricultural labour			Particular need for seasonal workers. High cost in general (not specific to farming). Affects the competitiveness of the farms in question.	<i>Difficult, in particular with regard livestock rearing. Excessively high social security contributions. Migration of the population to urban regions has been observed.</i>
		Cost of available labour				

2.4.	Cooperation and partnerships	Currently the cooperation between farms is already practised successfully			Reluctance of entrepreneurs in the past. Especially feared loss of autonomy. Governments trying to encourage closer cooperation Specialised and efficient management consulting necessary to improve trust (particularly in Eastern European countries.) Willingness, particularly of young farmers, to cooperate. Possibility of creating expanding structures given appropriate resourcing.	<i>Very bureaucratic.</i> <i>Inflexibility of administration</i> <i>A lot of misunderstanding and uncertainty amongst farmers concerning the new forms of holdings.</i> <i>Yet to become the norm.</i> <i>Comparison to exploitative Eastern European cooperatives</i> <i>Possibility of reducing costs and increasing productivity</i> <i>Specialised management consulting.</i>
		partnership (group holding) exists and functions well	 			
		favourable legislation to the development of new forms of holdings				
		Willingness of the farmers to engage in new forms of holdings				
<b>3. Agriculture in the Society</b>						
3.1.	Media	The image of agriculture and the profession of farmers presented by media is objective		 	Hazy and ill-informed image Except when there are scandals, agriculture does not make the headlines.	<i>Lack of objectivity in the media who seek the sensational,:</i> <i>... crises,...</i> <i>The image portrayed is unrealistic:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>outmoded or romantic profession, or:</i></li> <li>- <i>polluting biotechnology.</i></li> </ul>
3.2.	Communication by farmers	Willingness of the farmers to communicate their profession to the none agricultural world		 	Particularly on the part of young farmers. The education of children is particularly important.	



		Know-how of the farmers to communicate their profession to the non-agricultural world			Try to portray a positive image of farming => not only to communicate problems. Communication requires education, which must be available to farmers.	<i>Farmers' level of education is important. Continuing education is necessary. Need also to "educate" consumers to understand farming.</i>
		Use of new technologies of communication by the farmers			Used by young farmers, but mainly to inform themselves and rarely to communicate with the outside world.	<i>Considerable variation between the Member States. In general, young farmers are fascinated by new technology: increasingly used. But mostly for among themselves and rarely with outside world. .</i>
3.3.	Marketing of agricultural products	Sufficient personal engagement of the farmers in the marketing of the agricultural products			There are some good initiatives but they need to be developed. Problem of necessary workforce. In general, the Common Agricultural Policy's market regulation does little to encourage initiative.	<i>Direct sales allow closer links between producers and consumers: =&gt; traceability, loyalty, ... But more labour-intensive</i>
		Interest of farmers to develop new products adapted to the rhythm of life of society			Processing and distribution industries also involved	<i>Most processing and distribution is by cooperatives, agri-foodstuffs industry and major distribution chains, with whom the major responsibility therefore lies.</i>
3.4.	Decoupling of payments	The decoupling of payments makes it possible to better bring in line the production with the demand on the market			Possibility often yet to be availed by farmers	<i>Works only in theory. Detrimental effect on agriculture: ⇒ "Early retirement of farmers", ⇒ disorganised markets! becoming increasingly difficult to defend CAP.</i>

<b>4. Food safety</b>						
4.1.	Farmers	Sufficient efforts of the sector and the farmers in order to guarantee high quality and traceability standards			Cross-compliance criteria will help to get agriculture moving in the right direction. Many quality levels have been successfully introduced.	<i>Encouragement through CAP second pillar measures.</i>
4.2.	Consumers	Willingness of the consumers to pay more for food with guaranteed high safety and traceability			Becomes more noticeable during food scares.	<i>Purchasing power of consumers limited in certain MS. According to public opinion, all food should be produced to a high standard, so why pay more if you can by the "same" product cheaper?</i>
<b>5. Research and education in agriculture</b>						
5.1.	Basic professional formation	Availability				<i>... young people often end their training too soon to work full-time on the family farm.</i>
		Suitable training level for the installation on a farm			Theoretical aspects of training usually sufficient, but often practical experience (traineeships) not enough.	<i>Level of training is improving ... Theoretical training generally sufficient, but often practical experience (traineeships) is neglected. Availability of traineeships very limited and badly organised.</i>

5.2.	Continuous training	Availability				<i>Difficult to motivate young people to follow a training course that is generally optional.</i>
		Quality				
		Cost for farmers			Generally state-subsidised.	
5.3.	Research and innovation	Results usable in practice			Research primarily needed in the field of the second pillar of the common agricultural policy (environmental questions).	<i>Communication often difficult. More intense cooperation would be appreciated.</i>
		Collaboration with the practical agriculture is done and functions well				
<b>6. Agriculture and environment</b>						
6.1.	Second Pillar of the CAP	Feasibility of the suggested programs			Regular information and competent management advice needed to promote the often complicated programmes. Avoid too heavy an administrative burden.	<i>Major administrative burden. Great differences between the practicability of the suggested programmes. Economic compensation provided is not always sufficient.</i>
		Positive impact of the suggested programs on the economic result of farms				<i>Depends on the level of economic compensation proposed. Payments often take a very long times.</i>
		Positive influence of the payments on the management of the holding			Encouragement of sustainable agriculture.	<i>Sometimes lacks continuity ...</i>

6.2.	Decoupling of payments	Decoupling involves an extensification of agriculture, especially in less favoured areas, which benefits to the environment			In general: positive environmental effects. Avoid too intense extensification in less favoured areas through second pillar measures and cross-compliance criteria.	<i>Extensification only in regions not under land pressure or else danger of abandonment of agricultural land.</i>
6.3.	Environment	Enough respect towards agriculture in regards to environmental legislation			Problems mainly in animal production.	<i>More intense cooperation wanted in future. Need to communicate the "reality" of farming to the competent authorities.</i>
		Willingness of the competent authorities to cooperate with the agriculture sector			Good, but too much bureaucracy. Communication must be improved.	<i>Problems more "national" than "European".</i>
6.4.	Renewable energies	Agriculture is already strongly committed in the production of renewable energy			Little interest in society and among consumers.	<i>Mainly at experimental level. Very heavy administrative burden.</i>
		Willingness of the farmers to be more engaged in the renewable energy production.			Search for production alternatives. Need to offer economic conditions favourable to agriculture.	<i>Clear will, but question of profitability !</i>
		High price of fossil energies ensures the profitability of renewable energies.			Influence of the policy through fiscal measures also.	



	Existence of a legislative framework (subsidies ...) favourable to the development of the renewable energy production				<p><i>Could be improved, at Community level also.</i></p> <p><i>Eventually, profitability without subsidies is desirable.</i></p>
	The energy production (renewable) allows the diversification and the creation of added value in the agricultural areas	