

CAP towards 2020: meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future

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The **Netherlands** delegation briefed the Council about the **impact of common agricultural policy (CAP) changes on developing countries**.

Several delegations supported the Netherlands' view that the consequences of CAP changes on farmers in developing countries should be taken into account in the Commission's impact assessment on the upcoming CAP reform.

The Presidency recalled that the Council, in its November 2009 conclusions on policy coherence for development, agreed that ensuring global food security was a priority issue, while emphasising the role of the CAP and its impact on developing countries.

In its communication on the CAP towards 2020, the Commission stated that improved production capacity needs to respect EU commitments in international trade and Policy Coherence for Development.

Recognising the role of EU agriculture on the global markets, the Netherlands pointed out the need to closely monitor the impact CAP changes may have on third country markets.

The Commission recalled that the impact of the CAP on developing countries is far less substantial now than it was some years ago. However, the consequences of the changes for developing countries would be analysed in the impact assessment to be presented by the Commission in the second part of this year together with the legislative proposals on the CAP after 2013.