

DECLARATION OF THE CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN FARMERS 2010

**“CAP has to ensure a fair and stable
income for farmers”**

Agriculture is of strategic and economic importance and is central to the challenges facing the world today. Rising food demand combined with climate change and increasing market volatility means that food security can no longer be taken for granted.

The market alone will not ensure that citizens in Europe have access to secure and stable supplies of safe and quality food, produced in a sustainable way. This is the role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). With risks increasing, a strong CAP and the maintenance of its budget will more important than ever in future.

If European consumers are to be confident of their food supplies, and the EU is to contribute to world food needs, the CAP of the future must ensure that the farmers' production capacity is maintained throughout the EU. A dynamic and competitive agri-food sector, which provides employment for over 40 million people also has an indispensable role to play in the EU's new 2020 strategy for jobs and growth.

Yet, over recent years European farmers have been up against increasing concentration in the food chain and unfair competition from imports which do not have to meet the same costly sustainability standards as EU farmers. As a result farmers have failed to obtain a fair return from the market and production in several key food sectors, as well as employment on farms, has been falling.

The CAP of the future must therefore focus on:

- reinforcing the economic production role of farmers
- enabling farmers to obtain a fair income from the market and contribute further to providing the wide-ranging economic, social and rural services valued by society
- ensuring a level playing field for all EU farmers on the Single Market.

European farmers and their cooperatives have the potential to make an enormous contribution to meeting the challenges of food security, stability and climate change. They call upon the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission to ensure a Common Agricultural Policy which helps them in this task.