



## **Factual summary**

### **Online public consultation on**

# **"Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)"**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**

### **Context**

As part of its **Work Programme for 2017**, the European Commission committed to take forward work and **consult widely** on **simplification** and **modernisation** of the CAP to maximise its contribution to the **Commission's ten priorities** and to the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). This will focus on specific policy priorities for the future, taking into account of the REFIT Platform and without prejudice to the financial allocations for the CAP in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

With the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) already debated in various instances, the process includes a broad consultation and an impact assessment. The outcome will be presented before the end of 2017 in a forthcoming **Communication** that will include conclusions on current performance and policy options elaborated using a sound and reliable evidence basis.

A **wide consultation** process was launched to encourage a structured debate with all types of stakeholders, including non-agricultural actors. This process aims to:

- Collect views on the performance of the current policy and on the challenges facing EU agriculture and rural areas;
- Collect and assess ideas on how to adapt the policy to these emerging challenges;
- Gather the widest possible range of views and concerns about EU agriculture in an open and transparent manner; and
- Enlarge the debate on the CAP to the wider public and encourage more people to take part in the policy discussion

In that context, an **online public consultation** was launched on 2nd February 2017 and was closed on 2nd May 2017. It was open to all interested citizens and organisations and organised through a questionnaire translated to all 23 official EU languages available at the following consultation page:

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en)

The online public consultation the Commission sought views structured around three main areas: 1) Agriculture, rural areas and the CAP today; 2) Objectives and governance, and 3) Agriculture, rural areas and the CAP tomorrow. It included 28 closed questions (multiple choice), 5 open questions and the possibility to upload concise documents such as position papers.

## General statistics on the contributions to the public consultation

The public consultation on "Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)" has raised high public interest, and the Commission received a total of **322 912 online contributions from all EU Member States**. Among them, a total of **1 417 position papers** were submitted.

A preliminary overview<sup>1</sup> of these replies is presented below.

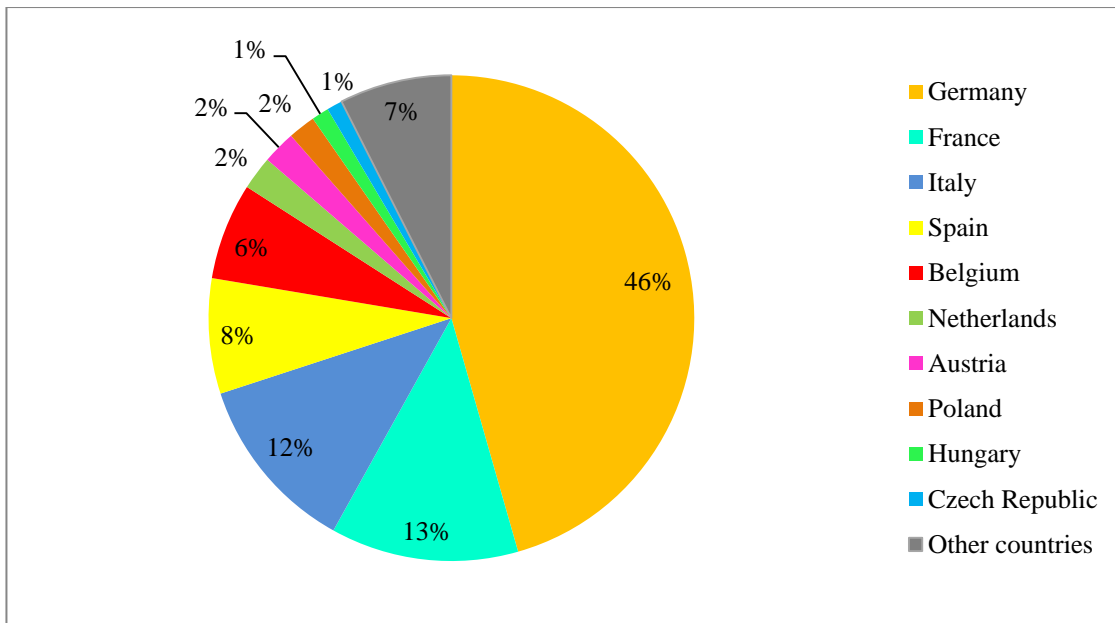
*Table 1. Distribution of the replies by Member State<sup>2</sup>*

Country	Total	% in total
Austria	7,129	2.21%
Belgium	20,806	6.44%
Bulgaria	956	0.30%
Croatia	1,983	0.61%
Cyprus	156	0.05%
Czech Republic	3,356	1.04%
Denmark	2,886	0.89%
Estonia	132	0.04%
Finland	1,188	0.37%
France	40,390	12.51%
Germany	147,142	45.57%
Greece	2,792	0.86%
Hungary	3,698	1.15%
Ireland	1,609	0.50%
Italy	38,425	11.90%
Latvia	633	0.20%
Lithuania	120	0.04%
Luxembourg	1,221	0.38%
Malta	40	0.01%
Netherlands	7,202	2.23%
Poland	5,872	1.82%
Portugal	980	0.30%
Romania	1,859	0.58%
Slovak Republic	3,132	0.97%
Slovenia	378	0.12%
Spain	24,776	7.67%
Sweden	1,885	0.58%
United Kingdom	2,040	0.63%
Other	126	0.04%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>322,912</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<sup>1</sup> This preliminary overview, strictly based on the statistical data provided by the database where responses are recorded, does not include submissions sent to the Commission by mail. At this stage, the duplication of responses or other information that may result from qualitative processing is not accounted for, but will be identified at a later stage.

<sup>2</sup> Based on replies by country of residence.

**Figure 1. Distribution of replies by Member State (with replies > 1%)**



The vast majority of the replies (97%) were submitted by **individuals**. In particular, a large number of replies were submitted collectively through actions coordinated within the civil society. The analysis of results will specify the identification of the **organised campaigns** and related numbers. Pending further disaggregation, figures and percentages indicated in this document provide a first overview<sup>3</sup>.

Also 10,032 organisations responded to the public consultation.

**Table 2. Distribution of the replies by type of respondent**

You are replying...	Total	% in total
as an individual in your personal capacity	312,880	96.89%
in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation	10,032	3.11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>322,912</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Most of the contributions sent at individual level have been sent by respondents who are not involved in farming. Only 7% of the replies come from individuals who see themselves as involved in farming.

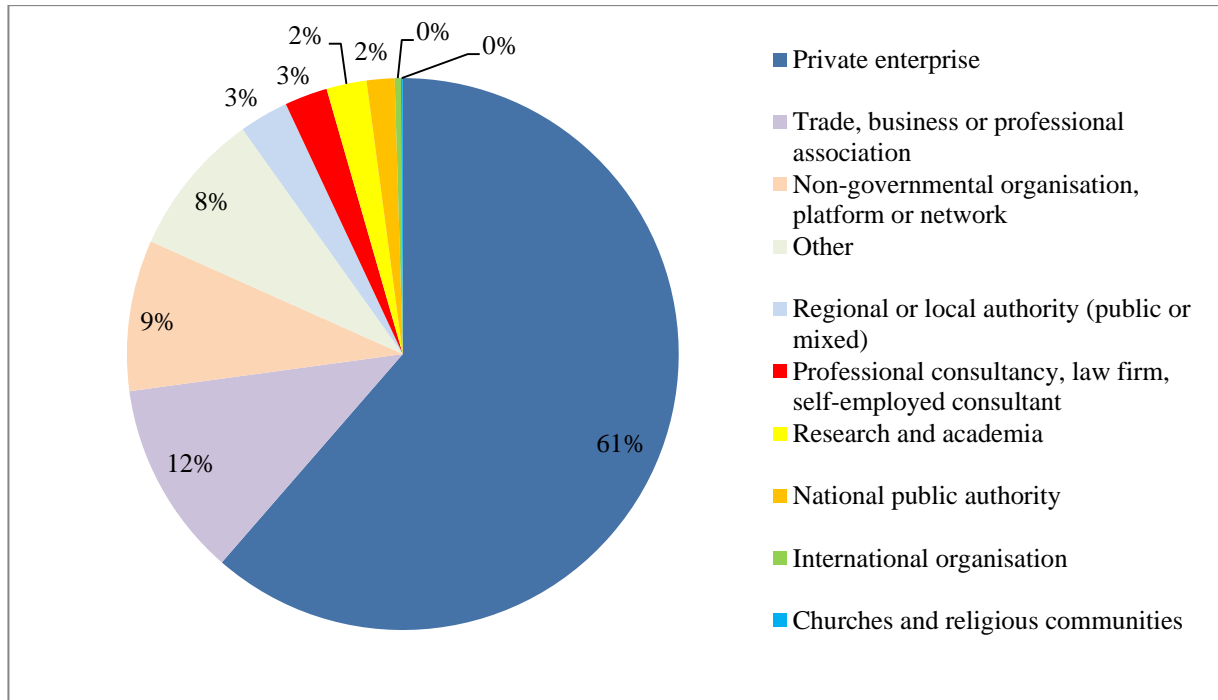
**Table 3. Type of individual replies (involved/ non-involved in farming)**

Are you involved in farming?	Total	% in total
Yes	22,450	7.18%
No	290,430	92.82%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>312,880</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

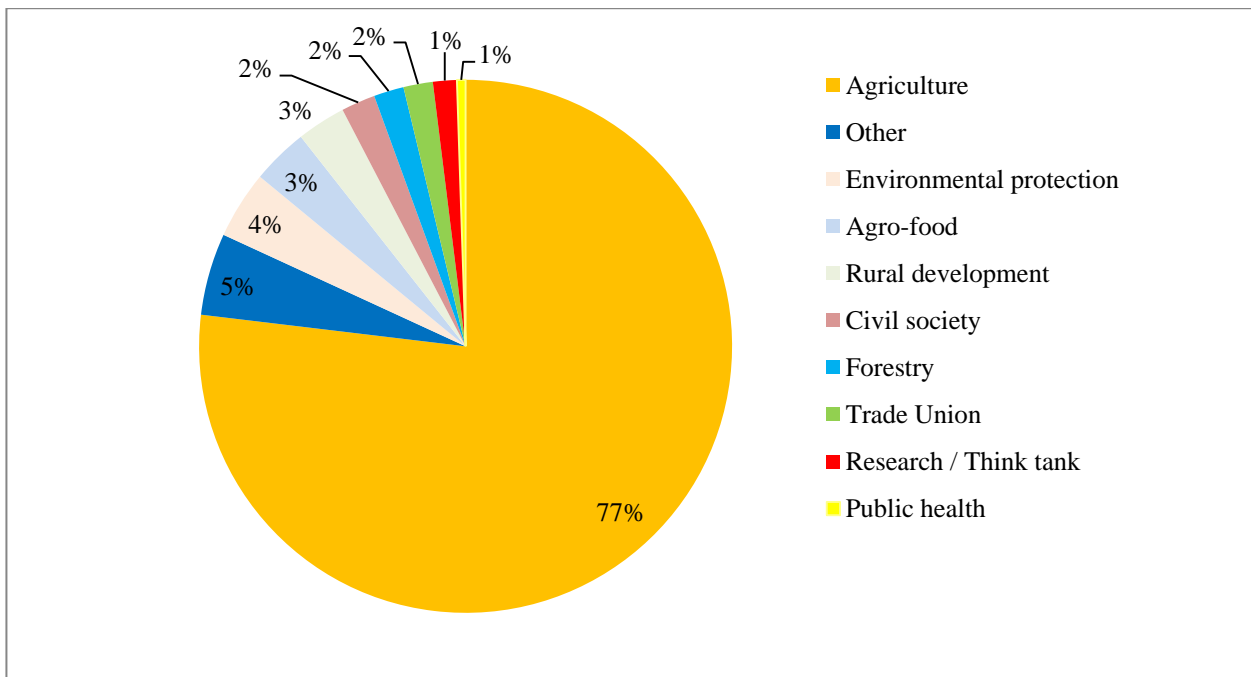
<sup>3</sup>A public consultation is different from a survey; it is not necessarily statistically representative (by countries/groups of stakeholders) due to self-selection of replies.

A large variety of **organisations** participated in the consultation (from private to public bodies, NGOs, professional associations, national and regional authorities, associations, research organisations...). A large part of these organisations are private enterprises (61%) and work in the agricultural sector (77%).

**Figure 2. Type of organisation**



**Figure 3. Organisation by sector**



## **Next steps**

Over the next weeks, the Commission will analyse the contributions received.

The outcome of the consultation will be communicated in a **Conference on 7th July 2017** to be attended by a broad range of stakeholders. A summary of the results of the consultation will be published online. The Commission will also publish on its website the contributions for which the respondents have agreed to publication.

The outcome of the consultation, together with other consultation activities, will feed into the Impact Assessment process and will be taken into account in the forthcoming Communication on "Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)".