

Agricultural contractors and the CAP: ***“Social partners for a new approach to agriculture”***

Considering that:

- The agricultural regulation of the markets, adopted under the 2000 Agenda and which would expire in 2006, allowed an evaluation and an adaptation of the aforementioned Regulation
- CEETTAR has already decided during its conference of 3 December 2001 on the opportunity of a mid-term revision of the CAP in 2002,
- Both reports on economic and social cohesion (2001 and 2002) stress the persistence of the territorial socio-economic disparities in the current Union, and the need for the CAP to re-orientate and intensify its contribution in the field of rural development,
- The agricultural work companies have always taken part in the adaptation effort required by the CAP, that it be the development of the quality of the products or of competitiveness
- The know-how of the Agricultural and Rural Contractors, with all the technology that they put at the agriculture service, still make an ever essential actor in the new adaptation turned towards rural development.
- Everybody: agricultural contractors, producers, consumers and taxpayers expect from agriculture new starts and progress.

On the objectives of the CAP

CEETTAR considers that:

- **The three main essential goals to be pursued are:**
 - Guarantee of an optimal production organization, in the respect of undertaking freedom and of consumer demand.
 - Research of social balance by the development of the rural economic activity and the promotion of the entrepreneurial and initiative spirit
 - Sensitization of a environmental responsibility by the good state of the land and the cultivation methods.

- **Reduction of the administrative costs and simplification of the procedures.**
- Farmers must meet the expectations of the public opinion by their efforts in the field of environment, food safety and animals' well-being.
- The required efforts and services must be rewarded by the community.
- For the less advanced countries (LDC), trade with the EU must not be endangered by the new common agricultural policy.

On rural development:

CEETTAR considers that:

- The resources and methods of support for rural development, second pillar of the CAP, must be more attractive and better adapted. Hardly 10% (4.5 Billion euros) of the budget are really not sufficient to carry out the ambitious projects developed in the CAP, considering that any progress in this matter must be achieved through a fiscal and social equity for everyone dealing with the same profession.

CEETTAR regrets that the Commission does not consider any specific measures for the young farmers.

Finally the CEETTAR calls on

the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee (ESC), and the Directorate-General for Agriculture to fully associate the agricultural contractors, to the current debates and to the future challenges of European agriculture and to associate them to the social policy and to the economic prosperity of the European Union, essential condition to approach under best auspices the current problems, the international deadlines and the prospect for enlargement.