

**Statement of the EISA Policy Officer
Martijn Buijsse
on the occasion of the meeting of the
Civil Dialogue Group on CAP
on 3rd May 2017**



Thank you Mr Chairman, we are – as you just stated – worried about climate change and the dilemma of assessing the future CAP towards the Paris Climate Agreement. Since it seems that a temperature increase of maximum 1.5 degrees or even 2 degrees Celsius will be difficult to achieve, this raises the question what farmers in Europe can actually and realistically do to significantly contribute to this objective without compromising any economically viable farming. And this has also to be seen against the background that for example the US will possibly withdraw their commitment to the Paris Agreement.

I represent forward thinking commercial farmers that apply sustainable farming practices as part of a whole farm approach in order to deal with matters like climate change. A modern CAP should recognise these farmers who apply the most modern techniques and farm management approaches, for example by carbon stocking techniques for improving soil organic matter or the application of precision farming techniques. These farmers do not deserve to be punished for maybe minor shortcomings. Rather, a positive and engaging policy towards farmers is needed. Trust is, as stated several times today, crucial to keep such policy simple. In our view, distrust only leads to more bureaucracy.

So my simple question is how the process of assessing the future CAP towards the Climate Agreement will look like: While knowing that many farmers already do the right things – and others need incentives to equally do that.

Coming back to your dilemma on monitoring the results, I want to invite you to come to these farmers via the farmers' network that we have in place. This network covers 7 EU countries. We can help you to visit farmers from this network and facilitate the debate on policies which aim at reducing CO₂ emissions and monitoring the results.

