



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 12 March 2019  
(OR. en)

7415/19

AGRI 131  
AGRILEG 53  
AGRIFIN 15  
AGRISTR 19  
AGRIORG 12  
CODEC 661  
CADREFIN 147

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Outcome of the Congress "CAP Strategic Plans - Exploring Eco-Climate Schemes" (Leeuwarden, 6-8 February 2019)  
*- Information from the Netherlands delegation*

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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) a note from the Netherlands delegation presenting the outcome on the "CAP Congress: CAP strategic plans – exploring Eco-schemes", held in Leeuwarden (NL) on 6-8 February, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 18 March 2019.

**Outcome on the CAP Congress: CAP strategic plans – exploring Eco-schemes, Leeuwarden (NL), 6-8 February**

Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

**Introduction**

From Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 February 2019 the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Province of Fryslân, and supported by the Rumanian presidency, hosted a congress ‘‘CAP strategic plans – exploring Eco-Climate schemes’ in Leeuwarden. Around 150 participants from the European Commission, 25 Member States, farmers’ organizations, NGO’s and researchers explored together how to design their National Strategic Plan for the future CAP, with a focus on the proposed eco-schemes.

The program consisted of a plenary session and excursions and workshops with speakers from both the European commission, Member States, farmers’ organisations and NGO’s<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore field trips were made to highlight the Dutch collective approach, an in 2016 implemented approach for agri-environmental and climate measures building upon a long tradition in the Netherlands of voluntary cooperation amongst farmers.

The starting point for the discussion were the CAP proposals: how can member states use the instruments of the CAP to accomplish the Common goals of the CAP. The member states experience both similarities and differences when working towards the Common goals. However, the future CAP provides opportunities to member states to design policies for the needs of each country. It also became clear that designing such policies for public goods by farmers, will be a major task in many member states. A task in which countries can help each other. The conference led to cautious optimism: it showed that the CAP proposals give countries opportunities to develop eco-schemes that lead both to better environmental and climate conditions and fit farmers’ practices.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the program: see [www.capcongress.com](http://www.capcongress.com)



- Furthermore, communication and advice to the farmer, and keeping administrative burden for the farmer to a minimum are important success factors.
  - Conditionality seems the right fit for preservation of farmland with high value for climate, natural resources and biodiversity, while eco-schemes seem better suited to situations where restoration is the aim. As a consequence it could be an idea to lower the conditionality for regions with a high effort on restoration and eco-schemes, making this more attractive for farmers to join.
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