

Food: from polluter paid to polluter pays?



EEB European
Environmental
Bureau

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The Green Deal Food Debate, 12th November 2020



About the EEB

The EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations.

Our vision

A better future where people and nature thrive together.

Our work areas



Climate



Nature



Circular
Economy



Economic
Transition



European
Institutions and
Governance



Global and
Regional
Policies



Health
and
Environment



Environmental
Law and
Justice



We are subsidising pollution

**Intensive agriculture costs society
€3trillion per year (globally)**



Agriculture is the source of 54% of methane and 92% of ammonia emissions, causing health-threatening air pollution.³



Where agriculture is most intensive, 92% of surface waters do not meet legal quality standards.⁴



More than 65% of agricultural soils contain pesticide residues and too much nitrogen and 45% have accumulated heavy metals from mineral fertilisers.⁵



Public support for intensive livestock

Coupled Support

A relic from the 20th century with known negative impacts.

3bn€/year for livestock.

1/2 beef cows and 1/3 dairy cows in the EU supported.





Moving to 'polluter-pays'?

Pricing pollution and GHG emissions at the source

**Carbon Border Adjustment
Mechanism for imported land use
change and unsustainable land
use**





Paying for public goods

Overhaul of CAP:

- Phase out harmful subsidies
- Shift funds to incentivise & reward farmers delivering environmental benefits

‘Carbon Farming’ based on a robust methodology

Public procurement: leading by example





And the role of consumers?

It's about the food environment

- **Price**
- **Availability**
- **Appeal**
- **Socio-cultural norms**

Many policy levers, ranging from taxation to labelling, food procurement to urban planning.





To sum up, we need to

**Overhaul the Common
Agricultural Policy**

**Reform economic and
fiscal incentives – for all
sectors!**

**Implement the Farm to
Fork Strategy – with
ambition!**



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Thanks for listening!

Keep in touch



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