




OUT OF BALANCE

INDUSTRY LINKS
IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE



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INTRODUCTION

For 56 years, European farming has been guided by the European Union's common agricultural policy (CAP) and the subsidies it distributes to European farmers. The CAP currently accounts for almost 40 percent of the EU's total budget – €59 billion in 2017.

As the EU carries out a policy review that will affect the CAP over the next seven years, there is concern that the interests of the agriculture industry could be given precedence over public health and the environment, and to the detriment of many European farmers. Greenpeace has investigated the farming links of members of the European Parliament's agriculture committee (AGRI), which is a key player in the CAP negotiations.

The research found that a majority of AGRI committee members, 25 out of 46, have strong links to the agriculture sector, and four more MEPs have looser links. This farming expertise is of course important in the reform of the CAP, but it should not eclipse the input of other experts. Agriculture has a significant impact on the environment, public health, climate change, the economy and other sectors, and yet there is a danger that experts in these fields will be prevented from playing a meaningful role in the reform of the CAP.



EUROPE'S BROKEN FARMING SYSTEM

The CAP has been steering Europe's farming in the wrong direction, towards ever-increasing industrialisation. The current agriculture system contributes significantly to the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, with the livestock sector alone representing between 12 and 17 percent of these emissions, according to life-cycle analyses.¹ Waste from large numbers of animals concentrated in confined spaces also pollutes the soil, water and air. Nitrogen pollution alone is responsible for up to €320 billion worth of damage in the EU each year.²

Intensive agriculture is also heavily reliant on synthetic pesticides and fertilisers which further pollute the environment, putting human health and wildlife in danger. In addition to its contribution to animal suffering, the practice of keeping animals in cramped conditions encourages heavy use of antibiotics to manage disease.³ The overuse of antibiotics in livestock farming is contributing to making antimicrobial resistance one of the most serious health challenges we currently face. It is responsible for approximately 25,000 deaths per year in the EU (700,000 globally), which is estimated to cost the EU €1.5 billion annually.⁴

Not only is the CAP pushing a type of farming that is bad for the environment and public health, but it is also not working in the interests of small farmers. Between 2005 and 2013, 26 percent of farms in the EU disappeared (a reduction from 14.4 to 10.7 million),⁵ with many small farmers unable to stay in business. The remaining farms have continuously increased in scale⁶, as CAP funding favours large-scale, intensive agriculture.

Agriculture affects us all. It affects our food, our health, our local environment, the global climate, our economy and our culture. That is why it is essential that a wider set of policy-makers and experts play a meaningful role in the decision-making process that is shaping the Common Agricultural Policy.

It is sensible to involve the farming sector and its representatives in designing the CAP, but decisions on the rules and financial supports that shape Europe's agriculture cannot be left to one sector alone. Just like EU policies on energy and transport are not decided by power companies or car manufacturers alone, the agriculture industry must not be allowed to regulate itself. Diversity of interests, knowledge and expertise is required.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ROLE

The current CAP, covering 2014-2020, was designed with the involvement of the European Parliament, which for the first time was allowed to negotiate on an equal footing with national governments, as laid out in the Treaty of Lisbon.⁷ In those negotiations, the European Parliament's AGRI committee had a leading role in formulating the Parliament's position on the proposed common agricultural policy.

The next CAP, which will cover the years 2021-2027, will also be negotiated between national governments and the European Parliament. The European Parliament has not decided yet whether the AGRI committee will again play the leading role in determining the Parliament's position on CAP, or whether the environment, health and food safety committee (ENVI) will be jointly responsible. The European Parliament will reach a final decision on this shortly after the European Commission publishes its policy proposal for the Common Agricultural Policy, which is scheduled for 1 June.

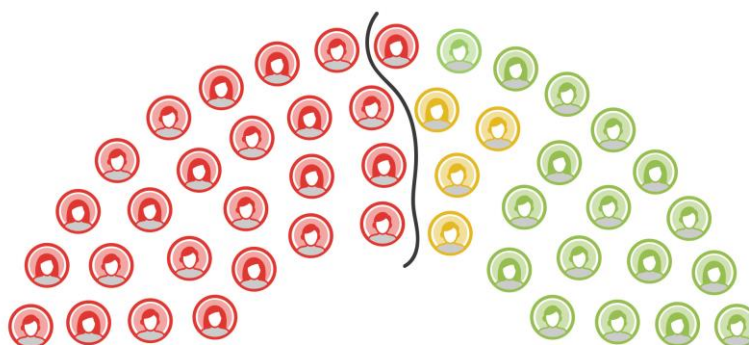
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY MAJORITY

The AGRI committee is dominated by Members of the European Parliament with strong ties to the agriculture industry. Greenpeace research found that 25 out of the 46 members of the AGRI committee are either farmers, former farmers, CAP payment recipients in another capacity, current or former partners in agricultural businesses, or have spouses who own farms. Four more MEPs have looser connections to the agriculture sector, such as parents who are or were farmers. For the remaining 17 MEPs, the research found evidence only of very weak links to the agriculture industry, or no evidence of any links.

MEP LINKS TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AGRI COMMITTEE

24 VOTES NEEDED FOR A MAJORITY



STRONG LINKS

25 out of 46 members of the AGRI committee have strong links to the agriculture industry

LOOSER LINKS

4 out of 46 members of the AGRI committee have looser links to the agriculture industry

WEAK OR NO LINKS

17 out of 46 members of the AGRI committee have weak links or no links to the agriculture industry

SOURCE: GREENPEACE EU RESEARCH, APRIL 2018

These numbers show that MEPs with links to agriculture and the agriculture industry have a safe majority in the AGRI committee, and can determine the outcome of any vote.

European farming must protect public health and the environment. It must provide good food while improving farmers' livelihoods. It must ensure a high standard of animal welfare, meeting the expectations of European citizens. To achieve this, more voices must have a say on the CAP in the European Parliament, not just the agriculture sector.



A NOTE ABOUT THE RESEARCH

This investigation looks into the financial interests and backgrounds of the permanent members of the European Parliament's AGRI committee. It establishes how many MEPs are farmers, CAP beneficiaries, former farmers, or have some other connection to farming. The research examines publicly available information, including personal declarations of interest by MEPs on the European Parliament website, the MEPs' own websites, online media, social media and national registries of CAP payments.

MEPs are designated as having a 'strong connection' to the agriculture industry if they meet any of the following criteria:

- They are classified as a farmer
- They receive CAP payments
- They were formerly a farmer or have received CAP payments in the past
- Their spouse is a farmer or CAP recipient
- They own shares or are a partner in an agricultural business, or a business that receives CAP payments
- They worked for a representative or lobbying group for the agriculture industry

MEPs were designated as having a 'looser connection' to the agriculture industry if they meet any of these criteria:

- Their parents or extended family are farmers
- They studied a university subject related to the agricultural industry
- They previously worked in a government or civil service department related to agriculture



MEPS WITH STRONG LINKS TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

JOHN STUART AGNEW – UK – EFDD

- **1971-1974:** Assistant farm manager (private sector).⁸
- **1977-1983:** Farm manager (private sector).⁹
- **1983-present:** Farmer (self-employed).¹⁰
- Owns a farm of 162 hectares of arable land where he has 35,000 free-range laying hens and 500 ewes.¹¹
- Declared to be a “partner in farming business in receipt of EU subsidy under CAP” receiving between €1,001 to €5,000.¹²
- Member of the UK National Farmers’ Union.¹³
- Member of the Anglia Farmers’ Cooperative.¹⁴

CLARA EUGENIA AGUILERA GARCÍA – SPAIN – S&D

- **1990-1995:** Manager of the Federation of Farmers’ and Stockbreeders’ Cooperatives in Andalusia, Spain (Fecoaga) (private sector).^{15 16}
- **1995-2002:** Head of the Andalusian Federation of Farming Cooperatives (FAECA) (Private sector).^{17 18}
- **2009-2012:** Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.¹⁹

RICHARD ASHWORTH – UK – ECR

- Dairy farmer.²⁰
- Chairman and founder-director of United Milk PLC.²¹

JOSÉ BOVÉ – FRANCE – GREENS

- Former farmer, producing dairy ewes.²²
- The farm, Montredon Farm, has 130 hectares of rough grazing and 40 hectares of arable land. They now have 180 dairy ewes.²³
- CAP Money:
 - In 2016 the farm received €18,895²⁴
 - Between October 2014 and October 2015 the farm received €40,818²⁵
- **1996-2004:** Leading member of the International Peasants’ Movement Via Campesina.²⁶
- **1981-2004:** Leader of the Confédération Paysanne (Smallholders’ Confederation).²⁷

DANIEL BUDA – ROMANIA – EPP

- Has shares in two agriculture companies.^{28 29}
- Owns a 95 percent share of OVILACAUNE SRL (previously AGRO TECH DEVELOPMENT SRL):
 - Breeds sheep and goats, established in 2013³⁰
- Owns a 50 percent share in AGRISERV SERVICII ZOOTEHNICE SRL:
 - Established in 2010, and has “activities in mixed farms (plant growing combined with livestock breeding)”

NICOLA CAPUTO – ITALY – S&D

- Comes from a family of wine producers.³¹
- **1987-2010**: worked for the family vineyard as head of marketing and internationalisation.^{32 33}
- **2001-2014**: Chair of the board of Consorzio Con.Vi.Ti. (Caserta Province wines consortium).³⁴
- **2003-2014**: Chair of the board of Consorzio Vis (southern wines consortium).³⁵
- **2003-2014**: Chair of the Caserta Felix agri-foods consortium.³⁶
- **2004-2014**: Member of the board of the Asprinio di Aversa, Galluccio and Falerno del Massico protected designation of origin wines consortium.³⁷

MICHEL DANTIN – FRANCE – EPP

- **1981-2002**: Adviser and later director of farmers' organisations in Savoie (private sector),³⁸ including FNSEA, the National Federation of Agricultural Holders' Unions.³⁹
- **2002-2007**: Adviser to Ministers of Agriculture (Mr Gaimard 2002-2005, Mr Bussereau 2006-2007, Mr Barnier 2007-2009).⁴⁰

PAOLO DE CASTRO – ITALY – S&D

- Comes from a family of wine and olive farmers.⁴¹
- The family farm is 36 hectares.⁴²
- Previously a partner in two farming enterprises that received CAP money (both were closed in 2016):
 - 25% share in Società Agricola De Castro Antonio & Figli S.N.C. (now Roberto De Castro e Fratelli S.N.C.):
 - in 2015, €24,096
 - In 2016 €6,866
 - 33% share in Società Agricola Patocchi Di Tondo Pier Nicola De Castro Fabrizio e C. - S.N.C.:
 - in 2015, €2,978
 - In 2016 €2,978
- **1992-present**: Full Professor of Agricultural Economics, School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, University of Bologna (IT).⁴³
- **1998-2000** and **2006-2008**: Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Policy.⁴⁴

ALBERT DESS – GERMANY – EPP

- Former dairy farmer. He handed the farm of 42 hectares over to his son.^{45 46}
- CAP money received by Albert Jr. Dess in Berggau:
 - In 2015: €13,558⁴⁷
 - In 2016: €17,980⁴⁸
- Holds a master's degree in agriculture.⁴⁹
- CEO of cheese company Bayernland eG since 1995.⁵⁰
- Honorary district chairman of the Bavarian farmers association.⁵¹
- Member of the cooperative advisory board of Baywa AG, a service provider to the agriculture sector.⁵²

HERBERT DORFMANN – ITALY – EPP

- Freelance Agronomist.⁵³
- **2005-2009**: Secretary general of AREV – Assembly of European Wine-producing Regions.⁵⁴
- **1997-2006**: Director of the "Südtiroler Bauernbund", the South Tyrolean Farmers' Unions.⁵⁵

JØRN DOHRMANN – DENMARK – ECR

- He is a farmer⁵⁶, lives on a farm⁵⁷ and is from a farming family.⁵⁸

LUKE MING FLANAGAN – IRELAND – GUE/NGL

- Referred to himself and his family as “having cut the turf” for generations.⁵⁹
- In 2014 he was spokesman of the Turf Cutter and Contractors Association (TCCA).⁶⁰

MARTIN HÄUSLING – GERMANY – GREENS

- Organic farmer and manages the family business “Kellerwaldhof” with his wife and sons.^{61 62}
- By profession, he is an agricultural technician.⁶³
- The organic farm, operating according to Bioland guidelines is 90 hectare and houses:⁶⁴
 - 75 dairy cows
 - 40 other cattle
 - 5 pigs
- His farm received €47,000 in CAP money in 2016.⁶⁵

JAN HUITEMA – THE NETHERLANDS – ALDE

- A dairy farmer.⁶⁶ Co-owns a farm together with his parents in the north of the Netherlands.⁶⁷
- States that he receives no income from the dairy farm (other than an interest reimbursement). States that in order to have the possibility to take over the dairy farm in future, it is necessary for him to remain a partner.
- They have 130 cows.⁶⁸
- They have received CAP money:^{69 70}
 - In 2015: €29,212
 - In 2016: €28,126

PETER JAHR – GERMANY – EPP

- Runs a farm (350 hectares)^{71 72}
- Holds a doctorate in agriculture.⁷³
- Shareholder and CEO of Agrar GbR Taura and Agrar GmbH Taura⁷⁴
- Shareholder of Dr. Ing. Peter Jahr and Thomas Schmidt Agrar GbR together with Thomas Schmidt, Saxon Minister of State for Environment and Agriculture.⁷⁵
- CAP money received in 2016: €13,347.⁷⁶

IVAN JAKOVČIĆ – CROATIA – ALDE

- Jakovic is a farmer and produces olive oil.
- He is the founder of the enterprise Juniperus.^{77 78}
 - The company is now apparently run by an appointed commissioner as per conflict of interest requirements, though Jakovic still owns the company.^{79 80 81}
 - One of the registered activities of the company is eco agri and food production: grape juice, olive oil and wine.⁸²
 - A court register states that Juniperus has its headquarters at the the residence of Jakovic (Sv. Juraj 49b) where he bought the whole village.^{83 84}
 - Jakovic is not shy about his farming activities and participates in competitions with his olive oil and invites journalists to report about it. Jakovic states he owns 6 hectares of land and 550 olive trees.⁸⁵

JAROSŁAW KALINOWSKI – POLAND – EPP

- A farmer, with a farm of 18 hectares.^{86 87 88}

ZBIGNIEW KUŹMIUK – POLAND – ECR

- He's a farmer, and has a agricultural holding of 1.76 hectares in joint ownership.⁸⁹
- **1979-present:** Radom School of Engineering (now the University of Technology and Humanities), lecturing in finance, public finance and business finance.⁹⁰

PHILIPPE LOISEAU – FRANCE – ENL

- A farmer.^{91 92}
- Produces cereals.⁹³

MAIREAD MCGUINNESS – IRELAND – EPP

- Comes from a family of farmers: poultry and dairy producers.⁹⁴
- Has a BSc in Agricultural Economics.⁹⁵
- Her husband, Tom Duff, is a potato farmer in County Meath, Ireland.⁹⁶
- They have some sheep as well.⁹⁷
- Thomas Duff from Kells (County Meath) municipal district is in the list of CAP Beneficiaries:⁹⁸
 - In 2015: €28,018.
 - In 2016: €24,427.
- Served two terms as Chairperson of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists.⁹⁹ Presenter on RTÉ's Ear to the Ground and Celebrity Farm,¹⁰⁰ a journalist with the Irish Farmers Journal and editor of the Irish Independent farming supplement.¹⁰¹

ULRIKE MÜLLER – GERMANY – ALDE

- Her husband and her son run the farm, but she helps occasionally.^{102 103}
 - 75 cows
- Honorary Farmer in the Bavarian Farmers Association Oberallgäu.¹⁰⁴

JAMES NICHOLSON – UK – ECR

- Formerly a farmer on his family farm, declaring on June 12, 2009 to be part-owner of a farm at 147 Keady Road, Armagh.¹⁰⁵

LAURENȚIU REBEGA – ROMANIA – ENL

- From his CV:^{106 107}
 - **1999-2004:** BSc in in Animal Husbandry Engineering, Faculty of Animal Husbandry University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest;
 - **2004-2006:** Junior Leader in Agricultural Business, Undertaking projects on the setting up of agricultural farms, economic analysis of agricultural farms, Advising farmers, The Danish Ministry of Education, Grindsted Agricultural Academy Denmark;
 - **2007-2009:** Production Manager Jd Agro Cocora, Romania.
 - Agro Cocora is a company that manages a 10,500-hectare farm.¹⁰⁸
 - **2007-2009:** MA in Rural Management and Development, Faculty of Management, Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest.
 - **2009-2011:** MA in Management of Rural and Regional Development Projects – Faculty of Agro-Food Economics and Environment – Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest.
 - **2009-2011:** General Manager at agricultural company SC Semina SA, Romania¹⁰⁹

- **2011-2012:** Director of the Department of Agriculture SC Agro Seed SRL, Romania

MARIA LIDIA SENRA RODRÍGUEZ – SPAIN – GUE/NGL

- A farmer.¹¹⁰
- Worked for the Galician Peasant Union (Sindicato Labrego Galego) during the three years previous to her election as an MEP.¹¹¹
- Represented La Via Campesina.¹¹²

CZESŁAW ADAM SIEKIERSKI – POLAND – EPP

- PhD in Economic-Agricultural studies.¹¹³
- Adjunct professor at Warsaw University of Life Sciences.¹¹⁴
- Former Director of the Foundation of Assistance Programmes for Agriculture (FAPA), former Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government for the preparation of rural areas and agriculture for the integration with the EU.
- Together with his parents, he ran a farm of six hectares, which now belongs to his sister.¹¹⁵ Part of the plot was bought from dairy cooperative and the other part from Polish Agricultural Property Agency (ARSP).¹¹⁶
- Together with his wife and daughter, owns 6 ha of land. Says no agricultural activity is carried out there and no direct payments, or any other, are being received.



MEPS WITH LOOSER LINKS TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

DIANE DODDS – UK – NON-ATTACHED

- Her father was a farmer from County Down.¹¹⁷
- She is a teacher by training.¹¹⁸

NORBERT LINS – GERMANY – EPP

- He grew up on a farm.¹¹⁹
- **2010-2011:** Personal advisor to Minister Rudolf Köberle in the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Agriculture.¹²⁰

BRONIS ROPÈ – LITHUANIA – GREENS

- He grew up on a farm: his parents worked at a collective farm until retirement.¹²¹
- Engineer.¹²²
- **2009-present:** First vice-chair of the Lithuanian Peasant and Green Union.¹²³

MARC TARABELLA – BELGIUM – S&D

- His mother was a farmer in Anthisnes.¹²⁴
- **2003-2007:** President of the Rural Foundation of Wallonia.¹²⁵

MEPS WITH NO LINKS, OR VERY WEAK LINKS, TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

ERIC ANDRIEU – FRANCE – S&D

- **1998-2008:** Chair of Unadel (National Union of Local Development Officers and Organisations).¹²⁶
- **2008-present:** Member of the Unadel board.¹²⁷

MATT CARTHY – IRELAND – GUE/NGL

- Was a member of local authority for Sinn Fein.¹²⁸

JACQUES COLOMBIER – FRANCE – ENL

- Estate agent.¹²⁹

JEAN-PAUL DENANOT – FRANCE – S&D

- **1992-2004:** Mayor of Feytiat

NORBERT ERDŐS – HUNGARY – EPP

- Historian, and used to teach in high school.¹³⁰

BEATA GOSIEWSKA – POLAND – ECR

- Former ARMA (Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture) member.¹³¹

ANJA HAZEKAMP – THE NETHERLANDS – GUE

- She's a biologist by training.¹³²

ESTHER HERRANZ GARCÍA – SPAIN – EPP

- **1997-1999:** Environmental consultant (private sector).¹³³

NUNO MELO – PORTUGAL – EPP

- He's a lawyer.¹³⁴

GIULIA MOI – ITALY – EFDD

- She is a biologist.¹³⁵ According to her declaration on the EP site, she didn't work for three years prior to her election.¹³⁶

MARIA NOICHL – GERMANY – S&D

- Specialist teacher in nutrition.¹³⁷

MARIJANA PETIR – CROATIA – EPP

- A long-time politician.

JENS ROHDE – DENMARK – ALDE

- Politician at EU level.¹³⁸

RICARDO SERRÃO SANTOS – PORTUGAL – S&D

- **2006-2014:** President of Imar – Institute of Marine Research.¹³⁹
- **1997-2012:** Director of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries.¹⁴⁰

TIBOR SZANYI – HUNGARY – S&D

- He worked for agrarian foreign affairs for two years, Agrimpex and then Hungaroseed (in late 1980s or early 1999s).¹⁴¹
- Between 1982 and 1990, he was chief rapporteur at the Agricultural University (MÉM).¹⁴²
- Between 1990 and 1991, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Agroinform.¹⁴³

MARIA GABRIELA ZOANĂ – ROMANIA – S&D

- She is a lawyer by training.¹⁴⁴

MARCO ZULLO – ITALY – EFDD

- He's an engineer.¹⁴⁵



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