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FoodDrinkEurope supports a **Common** Agricultural Policy, which promotes a competitive and sustainable food production.

**The food and drink industry is crucial in the CAP debate:**

- It buys 70% of EU agricultural raw materials to process them into safe and nutritious products
- It contributes 28% of the food supply chain turnover
- It represents 18% of jobs

The industry can therefore play a central role in moving the food chain towards improved competitiveness and sustainability. The CAP should help farmers and industry share values and pursue common objectives.

The CAP is more than a common budget and it should be applied consistently across the EU's heterogeneous agriculture and rural areas. **The common nature of the CAP is essential to delivering common goals across borders.**

The recent reform increased the level of flexibility given to Member States and regional governments when implementing the CAP, including derogations and exemptions from the general rule. The CAP has contributed to the creation of a Single Market, it should now ensure fair conditions for farms and businesses up and downstream in the EU. FoodDrinkEurope invites the Commission to scrutinise the implementation of the voluntary provisions opted for by the Member States in order to **ensure fair competition in the EU.**

*Note to the editors:*

*FoodDrinkEurope is the organization of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (286 000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.2 million employees).*

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