



## MEDIA RELEASE For immediate release

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### Farm policy reforms are not enough - say 14 major public interest groups

The European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must be transformed to embrace new social, environmental, animal welfare, rural and international development, and health objectives. This was the message in a paper – *The CAP Doesn't fit* (1) - published today by two major alliances and already endorsed by major UK public interest groups including ActionAid, CAFOD, Centre for Food Policy, Christian Aid, Compassion in World Farming, the Food Commission, Friends of the Earth, National Federating of Women's Institutes, Oxfam, Pesticides Action Network UK, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Soil Association.(2)

This broad grouping of consumer, environment, international development, animal welfare and farming organisations are presenting their recommendations to the European Commission as it publishes its draft proposals for CAP reform (due on 10<sup>th</sup> July). Leaks of these proposals suggest that the Commission is presenting some major changes to how certain elements of the CAP operate (3). Some of their plans reflect our recommendations - for instance on special treatment for small and family farms and increasing support for rural areas and environmentally beneficial farming. Yet even these changes will not address the very real problems inherent in a CAP that has the wrong objectives and which could continue to provide an unfair support system.

'The *CAP Doesn't Fit*' outlines what we believe those objectives should be, on what principles any future CAP should be based, and makes clear recommendations for short and longer term changes.

Vicki Hird, Policy Director of Sustain says *"Tweaking with the current CAP is no longer an option, as even the European Commission has recognised. We must ensure it can not cause further environmental damage and rural decline, hurt developing country farmers, nor undermine public or animal health. Public interest groups believe there is a role for farm support but it must be designed to ensure public goods are delivered and now is the time to start the transformation."*

ENDS

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#### Notes:

- 1) '*The CAP Doesn't fit*', July 2002, 8 pages – PDF available from Sustain or the UK Food Group. **(CLICK TO DOWNLOAD)**
- 2) As at 4<sup>th</sup> July 2002, the paper was officially endorsed by: **ActionAid, CAFOD, Centre for Food Policy (Thames Valley University), Christian Aid, Compassion in World Farming, Ecological Foundation, Food Commission, Friends of the Earth, National Federating of Women's Institutes, Oxfam, Pesticides Action Network UK, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Soil Association**

*This list will be added to as more member organisations endorse the document.*

**Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming** represents over 100 national public interest organisations working at international, national, regional and local level. [www.sustainweb.org](http://www.sustainweb.org). **The UK Food Group** is a network of non-governmental organizations from a broad range of development, farming, consumer and environmental organizations, who share a common concern for global food security. [www.ukfg.org.uk](http://www.ukfg.org.uk).

- 3) The Mid Term Review proposals by the European Commission for reform of the Common agriculture policy are due to be announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2002. Initial indicators (see *Agra Europe* 29 June 2002) suggest major changes being proposed to remove the direct link between commodities and direct payments and modulation of the subsidies to provide increased investment in rural development and environmentally friendly farming.