



## Committee of the Regions

The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives

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### CoR demands territorial impact assessment for all parts of future CAP

**The future development of the Common Agricultural Policy must be based on a thorough assessment of its impact on local communities, Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions, warned on Tuesday.**

Speaking at the European Commission's two-day conference on the future of the CAP post-2013 **President Bresso** said: "To guarantee territorial cohesion – set as one of the political objectives of the EU in the Lisbon Treaty – we must strive to ensure that all the EU's sectoral policies are coherent and complementary. Before considering corrective or compensatory measures, we must anticipate the consequences that the new legislation will have on regions and local communities. This is why the Committee believes that all major reforms of European policies should be subject to territorial impact studies, including the CAP."

She underlined that such an assessment should not be limited to the rural development part of the CAP – where there is a clear impact on the local area – but also to the part of the policy that deals primarily with agricultural production. The impact of farming on local communities is significant, and any proposals to change the way in which the CAP affects this sector of the economy should take this impact into account. She also repeated the CoR's position that there is a need for greater harmonisation between the CAP and cohesion policy in order to maximise their effectiveness.

President Bresso said that the beneficial impact of the CAP on local communities could be substantially improved by adopting a multi-level governance approach. "Regions and rural communities can no longer be mere co-financers of programmes – they must be actively involved in the development, implementation and management of those programmes too. A successful overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy requires across-the-board involvement of the regional or local level."

Highlighting some of the key elements of the CoR's recent [own-initiative opinion on the future of the CAP](#), President Bresso said that the CAP of the future would have to ensure equal treatment of the different types of production and regions by offering a more flexible range of support mechanisms, as well as making that support more conditional – linked, for example, to best practice in the protection of the environment and natural resources, or to the level of employment on each farm.

Visit the CoR's website: [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

#### The Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives. The mission of its 344 members from all 27 EU Member States is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the EU Court of Justice if its rights are infringed or it believes that an EU law violates the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

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