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The Future of Food and Farming

Yesterday, the European Commission (EC) published its Communication on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The Communication ticks a few boxes in terms of health and nutrition. It acknowledges that the CAP plays a role in several of the 17 SDGs, including SDGs 2 (zero hunger) and 3 (good health and well-being). It refers to the CAP's role in reducing obesity and malnutrition, notably through making fruits and vegetables easily available to EU citizens. The example of how to do this is, of course, the scheme through which the EU subsidises fruit, vegetable and dairy products in schools. EHN was a strong advocate for the introduction of the school fruit scheme and continues to support it. We therefore welcome the inclusion of this scheme in the Communication.

However, much more is needed. It is essential that the future CAP will not continue to support the production of mostly livestock and industrial crops. This would be contrary to demands for a sustainable planet and public health. The CAP must play a central role in creating a healthy food system that enables people to live in a healthful food environment and to adopt and maintain healthful dietary practices. A radical change in food consumption and production in Europe is unavoidable if we are going to conform to the UN Agenda 2030.

For further information on EHN's recommendations on European food and drink policies, please go to:

<http://www.ehnheart.org/publications-and-papers/publications/1093:transforming-european-food-and-drinks-policies-for-cardiovascular-health.html>