

SOCIAL CONDITIONALITY IN THE CAP

#SaveSocialConditionality



One voice. One movement. Our cause.

Four Myths VS Four Facts.

Social conditionality makes CAP payments conditional upon compliance with a set of workers' rights, including occupational health and safety requirements.

Introduced in the 2021 CAP reform, it has applied across the vast majority of Member States only since 2025. It is an important tool that could help raise labour standards in a highly precarious sector while promoting fair competition. Yet, it has come under attack through misleading claims.

It is urgent to set the record straight and explain why social conditionality is essential to ensure that public funds support responsible farming practices.

What is at Stake?

- Agriculture remains one of the most **precarious sectors** with high accident rates, significant levels of undeclared work and widespread exploitation.
- Responsible farmers who respect labour rights **are undercut by a minority who do not**. Social conditionality protects both workers and farmers and promotes fair competition.
- The European Commission's proposal already weakens the tool by removing social partners' consultation, exempting farms under 10 hectares, and allowing labour-law sanctions to offset CAP payment reductions. This is the time to **strengthen social conditionality**, not to weaken it.

Misleading Claims are Circulating to Support the Dismantling of Social Conditionality. It is time to debunk them.

MYTH 01:

Social Conditionality increases the administrative burden on farmers.

FACT: False.

It creates no paperwork and zero reporting obligations. It relies on existing controls and a limited number of existing labour laws. Those who comply with the rules have nothing to fear.

MYTH 02:

Social Conditionality creates a "double penalty".

FACT: No.

Labour-law sanctions ensure compliance with workers' rights, whereas social conditionality concerns the ethical use of public funds. These are two distinct objectives. The use of EU taxpayers' money is not a blank cheque. Certain conditions must apply.

MYTH 03:

It does not fit within the CAP architecture.

FACT: Wrong.

The CAP has linked support to cross-compliance: environment, animal welfare, animal and plant health since the early 2000s. Social conditionality simply extends this established principle to labour rights. Should workers be valued less than animals or plants?

MYTH 04:

It does not add value.

FACT: It is too early to tell.

Implementation across the vast majority of Member States only began in 2025 and remains uneven. In the countries where it started applying earlier, it has already proven to be an important tool. Scrapping it now would be short-sighted and fundamentally wrong.

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**Public funds
should NEVER
subsidise
violations of
workers' rights!**