ICM: The Future of Food and Farming

More than 100 participants attended an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on ‘The Future of Food and Farming in the new Common Agriculture Policy after 2020’ on 24 April 2018. This conference, co-organized by the Directorate for National Parliaments, brought together 58 Parliamentarians from 22 EU Member States and 49 Members of the European Parliament. The high participation of Members as well as the vibrant debates made a successful contribution to the process of formulation of the future CAP on an interparliamentary level.
On 24 April 2018, the AGRI Committee, in collaboration with the Legislative Dialogue Unit (LDU) of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments, organized an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "Toward the CAP after 2020: The Future of Food and Farming".

The opening speeches were held by Mr Czesław Adam Siekierski, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development and Mr Rumen Porozhanov, Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. This was followed by two panels moderated by journalists.

The first panel focused on a modernised and results based CAP for sustainable growth, environmental protection, quality food, health and jobs in the EU. It was stressed by most of the speakers that keeping the CAP as an EU level competence, special focus on supporting young farmers and fighting the aging of farmers, as well as the introduction smart digital technologies in farming - ecological, consumer protection concerns and environment protection are all vital to keep in the future CAP.

The second panel was about how to implement the future CAP and improve synergies in the multi-level governance with strengthened subsidiarity. The important role of National Parliaments in this process was strongly emphasized. The lively debates, where more than 50 speakers took the floor, gave the possibility to Parliamentarians from the Member States and MEPs to give their input to the forthcoming report of the EP on this issue, as the rapporteur, Mr Herbert Dorfmann MEP was participating in the debate. Members from National Parliaments took this opportunity also to raise their concerns and share their best national practices with MEPs.