

<p>You are Brigitte Deschamps. You are a French large-scale intensive arable farmer. You are a major beneficiary of EU subsidies – you received over €5,000,000 last year! Indeed, France as a whole is the largest recipient of CAP expenditure (16% in 2016). You believe that the CAP is an essential lifeline for farmers as their income is 40% lower than that of people employed in non-agricultural work, and their profitability is highly vulnerable to adverse weather and climate conditions. You have adapted to the CAP’s environmental reforms and are now one of the many EU farmers who has doubled their land use dedicated to ‘organic’ produce. You also receive ‘Green Direct Payments’ from the EU, which are only given to farms that make a concerted effort to protect the environment.</p>	<p>You are Brigitte Deschamps. You are a French large-scale intensive arable farmer. You are a major beneficiary of EU subsidies – you received over €5,000,000 last year! Indeed, France as a whole is the largest recipient of CAP expenditure (16% in 2016). You believe that the CAP is an essential lifeline for farmers as their income is 40% lower than that of people employed in non-agricultural work, and their profitability is highly vulnerable to adverse weather and climate conditions. You have adapted to the CAP’s environmental reforms and are now one of the many EU farmers who has doubled their land use dedicated to ‘organic’ produce. You also receive ‘Green Direct Payments’ from the EU, which are only given to farms that make a concerted effort to protect the environment.</p>
<p>You are Dan Petrescu. You are a 25-year-old Romanian arable farmer. You are grateful for the way in which the CAP has protected the rural way of life helping small farms like yours to remain in existence. You have also been one of the 175,000 young farmers who have benefited from EU start-up grants to encourage young people to enter the agricultural sector, as the EU seeks to address the problem of an ageing farming population. However, you believe the EU could do more to redistribute funds more equitably between member states. Although Romania has increased its share of CAP expenditure in recent years (2.1% (2009)/ 5.9% (2016), the largest recipients of CAP subsidies are still old member states, despite the economies of the newest member states being more dependent on agriculture than the older members’ economies.</p>	<p>You are Dan Petrescu. You are a 25-year-old Romanian arable farmer. You are grateful for the way in which the CAP has protected the rural way of life helping small farms like yours to remain in existence. You have also been one of the 175,000 young farmers who have benefited from EU start-up grants to encourage young people to enter the agricultural sector, as the EU seeks to address the problem of an ageing farming population. However, you believe the EU could do more to redistribute funds more equitably between member states. Although Romania has increased its share of CAP expenditure in recent years (2.1% (2009)/ 5.9% (2016), the largest recipients of CAP subsidies are still old member states, despite the economies of the newest member states being more dependent on agriculture than the older members’ economies.</p>
<p>You are Jerzy Dudek. You are a Polish cattle farmer. You have mixed feelings about the CAP. On the one hand, you feel it is unfair that although new member states depend more on agriculture, the largest recipients of CAP subsidies are the older member states. Poland’s % share of CAP expenditure has even declined from 9% in 2009 to 7.6% in 2016! However, you have also seen the benefits that the CAP’s rural community development projects have brought to your region. Both ‘upstream’ sectors (farm machinery, fuel, fertilisers, animal healthcare) and ‘downstream’ sectors (food processing, packaging, transporting, retailing) have benefited from CAP investment in improved communications infrastructure. The farming and food sectors together provide nearly 40 million jobs in the EU. The CAP is an essential lifeline for peripheral rural communities.</p>	<p>You are Jerzy Dudek. You are a Polish cattle farmer. You have mixed feelings about the CAP. On the one hand, you feel it is unfair that although new member states depend more on agriculture, the largest recipients of CAP subsidies are the older member states. Poland’s % share of CAP expenditure has even declined from 9% in 2009 to 7.6% in 2016! However, you have also seen the benefits that the CAP’s rural community development projects have brought to your region. Both ‘upstream’ sectors (farm machinery, fuel, fertilisers, animal healthcare) and ‘downstream’ sectors (food processing, packaging, transporting, retailing) have benefited from CAP investment in improved communications infrastructure. The farming and food sectors together provide nearly 40 million jobs in the EU. The CAP is an essential lifeline for peripheral rural communities.</p>
<p>You are Luis Marques. You are an Angolan</p>	<p>You are Luis Marques. You are an Angolan</p>

<p>subsistence farmer. You believe that EU creates unfair competition with agricultural LICs like Angola by limiting their exports to the EU with high import tariffs (18-28%) and using subsidies. To compound this, the EU exports its surplus goods at subsidised rates making it difficult for local producers to compete in local markets. This is highly hypocritical as the EU espouses the dogma of liberalised free trade & development aid whilst not opening its market to farmers in the LICs! The EU claims that its trade policies benefit countries like Angola by giving them duty and quota-free access to the market under the ‘everything but arms’ regime but life hasn’t improved for you.</p>	<p>subsistence farmer. You believe that EU creates unfair competition with agricultural LICs like Angola by limiting their exports to the EU with high import tariffs (18-28%) and using subsidies. To compound this, the EU exports its surplus goods at subsidised rates making it difficult for local producers to compete in local markets. This is highly hypocritical as the EU espouses the dogma of liberalised free trade & development aid whilst not opening its market to farmers in the LICs! The EU claims that its trade policies benefit countries like Angola by giving them duty and quota-free access to the market under the ‘everything but arms’ regime but life hasn’t improved for you.</p>
<p>You are Gerald Sibon. You are the EU Commissioner for Agriculture. You continue to champion the CAP as an integral part of the West European welfare state and a way of maintaining the EU’s autonomy in food security. There are around 10 million farms in the EU and 22 million people work regularly in the sector, providing an impressive variety of abundant, affordable, safe and good quality products. You are proud of the way that the EU has successfully reformed the CAP over the years to respond to various concerns, such as by broadening its scope through the Rural Development Policy (2000) which aims to encourage economic, social and environmental development in the countryside, through investment, promoting environmentally sound land management practices, and encouraging the diversification of rural economic activity. You vehemently reject the argument that CAP subsidies create unfair competition with farmers in LICs and MICs – the EU is the largest importer of agricultural products from those countries!</p>	<p>You are Gerald Sibon. You are the EU Commissioner for Agriculture. You continue to champion the CAP as an integral part of the West European welfare state and a way of maintaining the EU’s autonomy in food security. There are around 10 million farms in the EU and 22 million people work regularly in the sector, providing an impressive variety of abundant, affordable, safe and good quality products. You are proud of the way that the EU has successfully reformed the CAP over the years to respond to various concerns, such as by broadening its scope through the Rural Development Policy (2000) which aims to encourage economic, social and environmental development in the countryside, through investment, promoting environmentally sound land management practices, and encouraging the diversification of rural economic activity. You vehemently reject the argument that CAP subsidies create unfair competition with farmers in LICs and MICs – the EU is the largest importer of agricultural products from those countries!</p>
<p>You are Adebi Okocha. You are a Nigerian call-centre worker in Lagos. You often see stories in the news about how the EU’s use of restrictive trade practices like import taxes makes it much harder for Nigerian farmers to compete on the international market. However, as an urban consumer, you and your family have noticed a substantial decrease in your cost of living due to the influx of cheaper EU food products onto the Nigerian market. You also admire the way in which the CAP has tightened up regulations to protect the natural environment, with severe cuts to farmers’ subsidies who break the rules. You believe your own government could learn lessons from this commitment to environmental sustainability!</p>	<p>You are Adebi Okocha. You are a Nigerian call-centre worker in Lagos. You often see stories in the news about how the EU’s use of restrictive trade practices like import taxes makes it much harder for Nigerian farmers to compete on the international market. However, as an urban consumer, you and your family have noticed a substantial decrease in your cost of living due to the influx of cheaper EU food products onto the Nigerian market. You also admire the way in which the CAP has tightened up regulations to protect the natural environment, with severe cuts to farmers’ subsidies who break the rules. You believe your own government could learn lessons from this commitment to environmental sustainability!</p>
<p>You are Tobias Toff MP. You are a Conservative Party MP and a vociferous supporter of Brexit.</p>	<p>You are Tobias Toff MP. You are a Conservative Party MP and a vociferous supporter of Brexit.</p>

<p>You detest the pernicious EU and particularly deplore the heavily bureaucratic and costly CAP, a policy which effectively results in the UK, an urbanised country whose economy isn't reliant on agriculture, paying huge amounts of money to subsidise European farmers! It's inefficient too! You remember the 'butter mountains' and 'wine lakes' of the 1980s resulting from overproduction caused by the CAP linking subsidies to production! And why should almost half of the EU budget (40%) be used to support a sector which employs less than 5% of the EU's working population, with much of it gifted to a small minority of bigger, richer farms?! Farming only accounts for 1.6% of the EU's GDP! Thank goodness we're leaving! Hurrah for Brexit!</p>	<p>You detest the pernicious EU and particularly deplore the heavily bureaucratic and costly CAP, a policy which effectively results in the UK, an urbanised country whose economy isn't reliant on agriculture, paying huge amounts of money to subsidise European farmers! It's inefficient too! You remember the 'butter mountains' and 'wine lakes' of the 1980s resulting from overproduction caused by the CAP linking subsidies to production! And why should almost half of the EU budget (40%) be used to support a sector which employs less than 5% of the EU's working population, with much of it gifted to a small minority of bigger, richer farms?! Farming only accounts for 1.6% of the EU's GDP! Thank goodness we're leaving! Hurrah for Brexit!</p>
<p>You are Daniella Bianchi. You are the owner of an Agriturismo business in rural Italy. You have really benefitted from the CAP's 'Rural Policy' initiative to diversify economic activity in rural areas and have been running a successful bed & breakfast on your farm for many years now. This also allows you to contribute to the EU's reputation for food and culinary traditions by serving home-grown and locally sourced produce. As a consumer you have also benefitted from the way in which the CAP has increased agricultural production & improved the EU's ability to feed itself, which has reduced food costs for consumers. Today, each EU household spends 15% of budget on food, which is down from 30% in 1960!</p>	<p>You are Daniella Bianchi. You are the owner of an Agriturismo business in rural Italy. You have really benefitted from the CAP's 'Rural Policy' initiative to diversify economic activity in rural areas and have been running a successful bed & breakfast on your farm for many years now. This also allows you to contribute to the EU's reputation for food and culinary traditions by serving home-grown and locally sourced produce. As a consumer you have also benefitted from the way in which the CAP has increased agricultural production & improved the EU's ability to feed itself, which has reduced food costs for consumers. Today, each EU household spends 15% of budget on food, which is down from 30% in 1960!</p>
<p>You are David Ginola. You are a French dairy farmer and a leading member of 'Pour une autre PAC', a French action group which campaigns for the reform of the CAP. You believe that it is deeply unfair that most of the CAP's €50bn budget is spent in favour of intensive farms and practices which threaten the sustainability of rural areas' development, health and environment. You are concerned that the CAP has encouraged the use of unecological methods by farmers to increase production (use of pesticides, fertilisers), which has polluted the soil and water tables, and had a devastating impact on wildlife eg. massive decrease in farmland bird populations since 1980 due to removal of hedgerows and ploughing of grassland. Moving forward you passionately believe that the CAP should focus on inclusivity, fairness, environmental protection and animal wellbeing.</p>	<p>You are David Ginola. You are a French dairy farmer and a leading member of 'Pour une autre PAC', a French action group which campaigns for the reform of the CAP. You believe that it is deeply unfair that most of the CAP's €50bn budget is spent in favour of intensive farms and practices which threaten the sustainability of rural areas' development, health and environment. You are concerned that the CAP has encouraged the use of unecological methods by farmers to increase production (use of pesticides, fertilisers), which has polluted the soil and water tables, and had a devastating impact on wildlife eg. massive decrease in farmland bird populations since 1980 due to removal of hedgerows and ploughing of grassland. Moving forward you passionately believe that the CAP should focus on inclusivity, fairness, environmental protection and animal wellbeing.</p>