CAMPAIGN FOR AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

A common position, initiated and developed by the following organisations:

**Consumers Organisations**
- Conseil National des Associations Familiales Laïques (CNAFAL)
- Union Nationale des Associations Familiales (UNAF)
- Alliance Paysans Écologistes Consommateurs
- Action Consommation

**Farmers Organisations**
- Jeunes Agriculteurs
- Confédération paysanne
- chrétiens dans le Monde Rural (CMR)
- Fédération Nationale d’Agriculture Biologique
- Mouvement Rural de Jeunesse Chrétienne (MRJC)

**Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Organisations**
- 4D - Dossiers et Débats pour le Développement Durable
- Les Amis de la Terre
- Association pour la création de la Fondation René Dumont
- Réseau Action Climat France
- Réseau Cohérence

**International Solidarity Organisations**
- Coordination Sud
- Centre de Recherche et d’Information pour le Développement (CRID)
- Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale (CFSI)
- Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD)
- Solagral
- Groupe de Recherche et d’Échanges Technologiques (GRET)

The following organisations are also supporters
We call for an immediate change in the direction of the CAP so that it encourages and guarantees, in Europe and the wider world:

- **The right to food sovereignty and respect for small farmers’ agriculture**
- **Remunerative prices and employment for farmers**
- **Healthy food, accessible to all**
- **Preservation of the environment, of resources and of natural habitats**

The CAP, an element in European integration that has made it possible to improve the food self-sufficiency of the 15 member states, is at a turning point in its history. It is currently the target of numerous attacks, both from within and outside the European Union (EU).

The successive food-safety crises, the doubts about the quality of agribusiness products, the dying out of small-scale producers in Europe, the persistence of hunger in poor countries, the degradation of environmental resources (climate, water, soil, biodiversity) - all these are the consequences of seeking the lowest possible production cost. This demonstrates the aberration of the CAP’s orientation and shows the necessity of making it coherent with the Community objectives regarding sustainable development: cooperation and international solidarity, regional development, environmental protection, job creation, fight against the greenhouse effect, and so on.

There are currently 7 million farmers in the 15 countries of the EU. Its enlargement in 2004 to 4.5 million farmers in 10 Central and Eastern European Countries implies a common vision of the CAP and of the resources at its disposal. Moreover, the EU cannot justify to other countries, particularly the poorest, and to public opinion around the world, the upholding of a model that generates surpluses that are dumped on the internal markets of other countries. The diehard defence of export restitutions is inciting an anti-CAP front that is paradoxically sparing the United States, eventhough the latter, all the while advocating total free-market economy, subsidizes its agriculture just as much. These policies are contributing to the impoverishment of small farmers -600 million of them are suffering from hunger worldwide.

However, the Commission’s proposals, as well as the European Council’s decision to maintain the current budget for agricultural support and direct subsidies until 2006, does not tackle the crucial issue of the setting of agricultural prices and allows the practice of dumping - the sale of agricultural products on external markets at prices below the cost of production- to continue.
We, the signatory organisations, representing numerous actors of civil society affected by this economic, social, environmental and health dumping, call for:

**REMUNERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND SOCIAL POLICIES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CREATION OF JOBS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Price decreases, leading to a decrease in producer’s income, is a cause of food insecurity and rural exodus in the South. In the North it pushes countries to spend ever more to back up the incomes of producers. The consequences are harmful for the North as well as the South: Europe loses 200,000 active farmers each year and 40 per cent of French farmers have an income below the minimum wage. In France, the domestic price of wheat is half that of ten years ago. European chicken is sold at 1.37 euros per kilo in the West Africa markets while the local production cost is around 2.28 euros per kilo, a situation that’s ruining local farmers.

Agricultural income should be based on remunerative prices that are in particular guaranteed by domestic market protection and by mechanisms to regulate and distribute the volumes produced. Only farms that are small or located in less-productive zones will have the right to direct subsidies to complement their incomes. The effect on consumers will be very limited given the tiny proportion of the final food price that is made up by producer costs - the profit margins of intermediaries making up most of the price of the products. On top of this, public policies must guarantee access by all to healthy and sufficient food.

**POLICIES TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PRODUCE HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL**

By encouraging productivist [i.e. quantity-enhancing, industrial] systems of production the orientation of the CAP, has led to polluting practices and the production of poor-quality food. The efforts made by small farmers to develop a sustainable agriculture respectful of the environment have neither been sufficiently recognized nor encouraged by the current CAP.

The environmental regulations must be respected by all and accompanied by effective means of control and sanctions. In addition, voluntary steps in the direction of a sustainable agriculture that give real guarantees to consumers, must be supported.

We believe that the reform currently proposed by the European Commission does not respond to these objectives and that the decision of the European Council can only delay the search for a viable solution, leaving a free hand to those who want to dismantle the CAP entirely in the long run.

The change in the direction of the CAP that we are calling for, based on remunerative prices, will make it possible to use, with the same budget, a much larger portion of financial resources to encourage a sustainable agriculture and a balanced rural development across an enlarged Europe of 25. Furthermore, this change in direction will make it possible for the EU to launch a renegotiation of the WTO’s Agreement on Agriculture and to move towards the overhaul of the system of setting world agricultural prices, the only way to improve the situation of small farmers worldwide.
We, signatory organisations, are prepared through our actions in alerting the public and through our contacts with partners in Europe and around the world, to support the efforts by France and the EU to promote the emergence of a sustainable agriculture.

- **TO DO SO, THE CAP MUST BE REFORMED IMMEDIATELY BY IMPLEMENTING THE TOTALITY OF THE FOLLOWING MEASURES, WHICH CANNOT BE DISSOCIATED FROM ONE ANOTHER:**
  - set up remunerative prices that correspond to production costs;
  - end direct or indirect subsidies to exports;
  - protect the European market against imports, and negotiate special agreements with developing countries as an approach of international solidarity and based on remunerative prices for all parties concerned;
  - regulate quantities produced in order to bring them into line with domestic demand;
  - fair sharing out of production with the goal of maintaining agricultural and rural activities in all of the regions;
  - set up policies to preserve the environment and to produce healthy food available to all.

- **THIS REFORM OF THE CAP WILL ENABLE THE EU TO START UP ON A RENEGOCIATION OF THE WTO’S AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE IN 2003 WITH THE GOAL OF RAISING AND STABILISING WORLD AGRICULTURAL PRICES.**
  - reform in the direction of regulating international markets, including the prohibition of dumping and respect for the principle of food sovereignty;
  - launching negotiations on new terms of international exchange of products and mechanisms to stabilize agriculture prices;
  - strengthening of regional zones of agricultural and food sovereignty and promotion of exchanges within these spaces.

Maintaining of a strong agricultural policy is justified if the EU commits itself to a reform towards sustainable agriculture and if it regulates agricultural output in order to avoid the export of surpluses prejudicial to farmers in other countries. The EU will then legitimately be able to claim the right, for itself and for others, to introduce measures, particularly financial ones, to protect its farmers, its environment and the health of its consumers.