A few facts of life

There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. These are things we don't know that we don't know.

(Donald Rumsfeld)
Communication on Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy

Inception impact assessment (February 2017) – CAP to be:

• modernised

• simplified

• made more coherent with other EU policies – to maximise its contribution to:
  • ...the 10 Commission priorities
  • ...the UN Sustainable Development Objectives (SDGs)
Let's not forget the money….

• Next EU multi-annual financial framework (MFF)

• "EU budget focused on results"
Objectives: known (Commission priorities)

10 priorities

01 A new boost for jobs, growth and investment.

02 A connected digital single market.

03 A resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy.

04 A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base.

05 A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

06 A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States.

07 An area of Justice and Fundamental Rights based on mutual trust.

08 Towards a new policy on migration.

09 Europe as a stronger global actor.

10 A Union of democratic change.
Objectives: known (SDGs)
Objectives: unknown

- Final proposed list of CAP objectives
- Dog wags tail, or tail wags dog?
- Level of ambition
CAP budget: known

• Cuts will have to be planned

• CAP budget must be (more) "focused on results"
CAP budget: unknown

• How deep will cuts go?

• What does "a budget focused on results" mean in practice?
CAP tools: known (or reasonable to assume)

- Criticisms of "greening" will have to be addressed somehow

- Revised green architecture of CAP will seek not to lose strengths of current system
CAP tools: unknown (selection!)

- Level of prescriptiveness in EU legislation
- One tool for one objective (Tinbergen Rule), or "joint" approach?
- Sources of finance (EU vs. national)
- Area-based payments: what's more important – area covered or action taken on area?
- What about "all those other elements" (knowledge transfer, innovation, investments)?
Context and further timing

2017
• Commission Communication on the CAP (29 Nov)
• (European Summit)

2018
• Legal proposals on the MFF
• Legal proposals for EU policies

2019
• EU-28 becomes EU-27
• End of mandate of Parliament, Commission
• New Parliament, Commission
Further information

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/future-cap_en