



## CEJA Statement on Brexit

CEJA believes the **EU remains in the best position to strengthen EU agriculture** and help tackle the current and future challenges that young farmers face. Nonetheless, **CEJA acknowledges the intention of the UK to leave the EU, having triggered article 50**. With that in mind, and as CEJA's principal concerns are **the protection of the interests of European young farmers**, we have some recommendations for navigating the Brexit process.

Our main priority is that any deal must provide much needed **stability for young farmers**. **Any negative impacts of Brexit on young farmers in both the EU and the UK must be avoided**. CEJA calls for a **comprehensive deal between the EU and the UK**. This deal should determine whether the UK remains in the Customs Union and/or Single Market, or if a new trade agreement with similar conditions will be created.

**Any deal must be reached with the assurance of an enhanced CAP budget when compared to the current financial allocations**. CEJA, therefore, calls for the assurance of financial contributions to the agricultural sector as this is vital to ensuring we are able to meet the sustainability ambitions put forward for the next CAP.

Particular attention will have to be given to the special status of Northern Ireland, Gibraltar and other areas of concern where a focus on regulatory alignment in trade practices and customs regulations across borders, thereby ensuring frictionless trade, is an important matter in the negotiations for safeguarding the future interests of EU and UK young farmers.

CEJA strongly believes that a so-called “no deal scenario” **must be avoided**. **In addition to this**, CEJA calls for a transitional period **after March 2019** in order to allow for a smooth Brexit process and the adjustment of young farmers to the new context.

If there is no deal, strong market support from the EU will be necessary. The effects of imports from non-EU markets, if barriers between the EU and the UK are introduced, will also have to be taken into account.



**CEJA believes in the principle of no trade barriers between the EU and the UK, particularly for agri-food products.** A new trade agreement, protecting both markets, must therefore be reached and has to guarantee that the **UK and the EU will maintain the same standards after Brexit.** These include veterinary and phytosanitary requirements, food safety measures and the protection of geographical indications (GIs). In addition to this, it is essential that an information system is put in place that clarifies key characteristics, such as origin, of different products. This system must also apply to products passing through the UK from non-EU countries. It will be necessary to establish controls in order to ensure these products meet the required standards and are traceable.

**CEJA believes in guaranteeing the free movement of workers and transport** so as to avoid undermining the creation of jobs and growth in both the EU and the UK, and to maintain the flow of trade.

**CEJA intends to continue its cooperation and dialogue with UK young farmers** on exchanges of best practices and information, but also in terms of cooperation on research and innovation initiatives.