

Brussels plans green EU farming policy

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The documents outline a proposed reform of the CAP from January 2014 to be presented Wednesday by the European Union's Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos.

Among his proposals is a call for 30 percent of EU farm subsidies to be tied to respect for the environment.

These measures include [crop diversity](#) -- planting at least three varieties,

with no more than 70 percent of a farmer's land used for a single crop -- and setting aside seven percent as havens for plants, animals and insects.

To even out [subsidies](#) in the interests of [fairness](#), payouts to farmers would be capped at 300,000 euros (\$424,000) per year. In addition, levies would be applied progressively on all payments exceeding 150,000 euros.

Big farms with a large number of workers could win exemptions as salaries could be deducted from the handouts, according to the [European Commission](#) proposals.

The reforms are part of wide changes to the bloc's CAP, which traditionally accounts for around 40 percent of its annual spending of nearly 140 billion euros.

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