



**6th Forum for the Future of Agriculture - Regional Event
Berlin, October 23, 2013**

**Agricultural property: Meeting the food and environmental challenge:
Is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on the right way?**

The Berlin Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) was on the 23rd of October at the offices of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Grundbesitzerverbände. The core issue of the forum was the most recent Common Agricultural Policy reforms, with special emphasis placed on the newly introduced Greening measures.

Christoph Büren, the president of the European Landowners Organization (ELO), kicked off the regional FFA by urging landowners, managers and farmers to view the disputed greening measures as a potential opportunity. He also stressed the importance of the European Parliament's involvement in the co-decision process as this could potentially increase the public acceptance of the CAP.

Professor Folkhard Isermeyer, president of the Thünen Institut, was less optimistic in his diagnosis of the current state of the CAP. He argued that the latest policy reform completely failed to reflect current international developments in the agriculture sector, while also being a poor response to the growing demand for sustainable, high quality produce. While Professor Harald von Witzke from the Humboldt University felt that the CAP has generally been progressing in the right direction, he agreed with Professor Isermeyer in that he too felt that the latest reform involved a missed opportunity to further address current trends in the agriculture industry.

arl Albrecht Bartmer, president of the Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft (DLG), expressed serious concerns about the extent to which the greening measures merely involved broadly appealing environmental solutions that lacked efficacy. Dr. Dietrich Guth, from the German Agriculture Ministry, was equally pessimistic, arguing that there was problematic trend away from the previously market-oriented nature of the CAP. The only true optimist in terms of the latest CAP was Jochen Dettmer, from the Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND). He stated that the reforms reflected an appropriate paradigm shift that demonstrated a justified concern relating to the environmental considerations and biodiversity.

The regional FFA was concluded by a closing speech from the president of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Grundbesitzerverbände, Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm. He thanked the attendees and speakers for their heated and fruitful debate and emphasized the need for further commitments toward improving the CAP.