



March 12th 2013

To the members of
The European Parliament

*The European Small Islands Federation, ESIN, brings together national organisations representing about 1700 small islands in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Sweden and Åland, with a combined population of about 440 000 islanders. .
ESIN promote life on small islands with integrated and sustainable development. ESIN has two main objectives. To initiate and support contacts and exchange of experience among the islanders and to bring information about the situation on small islands to the European institution, to influence the legislation and supportive systems available for the small islands.*

CAP supporting the small islands,

The European institutions are now in the process of deciding on policies for the coming seven year period 2014 – 2020. The Common Agriculture Policy, CAP, is of great importance for the small islands, both for agriculture and for general rural development.

The CAP needs to recognise the special status of islands farmers and to take into account a range of criteria, when supporting their needs, including distance from the markets, extra cost of inputs, double insularity and landscape management which benefits the fragile environment and the tourism economy. Small islands which are dependent on farming should be especially recognised and supported both in terms of additional resource allocation, and financially, to enable their future survival and prosperity.

The ESIN now asks the members of Parliament to use their influence and opportunity to add the text above to the CAP on the coming vote on Wednesday in Strasbourg. We suggest that this text can give special attention to the text in amendment 40 a.

Attention given in this way will very much help our situation in the future work on the different national CAP programmes for the coming years.

An additional text to promote the issue of the small islands will also support the spirit of article 174 of the Treaty which underlines that special attention should be paid to such territories as islands, beset by permanent geographic and demographic handicaps.

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