

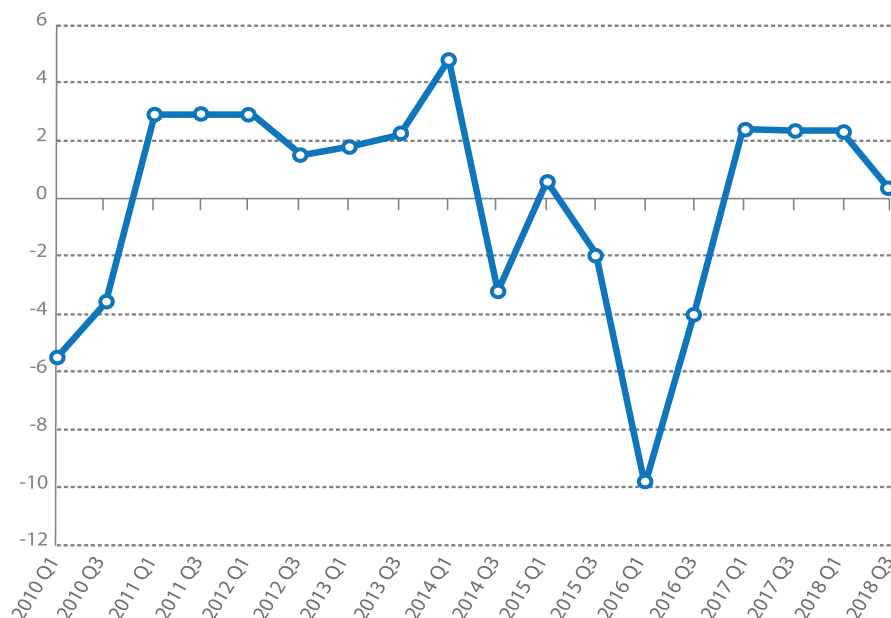
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# Press Release

## European farmers' sentiment dampened by 2018 summer drought

*Following the release of [statistics](#) showing a decrease in European farmers' income in December, the EU Farmers' Confidence Barometer dropped in the second half of 2018, after two years of recovery. This decline mainly reflects the consequences of the severe drought and flooding episodes faced by EU farmers during the summer.*

**Chart 1 – EU-10\* confidence index development**



Compiled by Copa-Cogeca using national data

As opposed to the overall positive sentiment observed by Copa-Cogeca in spring 2018, the EU barometer recorded a two-point decrease in farmers' sentiment at the end of 2018, clearly highlighting the impact of the extreme weather conditions in 2018 on farmers' mood. In this regard, some of the most significant trend reversals were identified among Swedish and Danish producers, who faced severe droughts. These extreme weather episodes did not only affect the harvest, but also the availability and price of fodder, farms' liquidity as well as initial sowing.

The fact that the European Commission allowed for derogations from some greening rules and for early payments, and that some national governments provided support packages did not curb negative sentiment.

Besides short-term setbacks, European farmers also faced growing concerns regarding the general uncertainty on agricultural markets and surrounding the future CAP budget. The complicated

negotiations on Brexit and the impending final decision are also weighing heavily on farmers' mood. UK farmers remain extremely worried about the impact that Brexit will have on their activities. Most UK farmers (84%) indicated that they have concerns about input costs going up, and many are also very anxious about falling livestock prices. In relation to price developments, pork prices are still low as the pigmeat sector continues to be embroiled in the African Swine Fever predicament.

**-ENDS-**

The Copa-Cogeca confidence index is calculated twice a year on the basis of the results of national surveys carried out among over 8,000 farmers. These surveys ask two questions about how farmers assess the current and expected economic situation of their farms. >>> [Download Copa-Cogeca's EU barometer survey for the second half of 2018](#)

Translations (in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Polish) will soon be available [www.copacogeca.eu](http://www.copacogeca.eu)

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