

# **CEJA**

## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **2019**



At DeLaval everything we do is about farming, and every solution we develop starts from a farmer's perspective.

After all, when it comes to the future, it all revolves around you.



**IT ALL REVOLVES  
AROUND YOU**

 **DeLaval**

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# FOREWORD

**NORBERT LINS**

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

*DEAR YOUNG FARMERS,*

Since I took office as Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development after the European elections in 2019, generational renewal in agriculture has been high on our agenda, be it in our Committee's debates on the European Parliament's priorities for the new legislature, during the hearings of Commissioner Wojciechowski or in our discussions on the future Common Agricultural Policy.

EU farmers are getting older and generational renewal is put at risk by the lack of attractiveness of rural areas and the income gap with other professions. This dangerous demographic trend threatens the capacity of EU agriculture to reinvent itself and adapt to a changing environment, as young farmers are more open to innovations and technological change.

One must also be aware of the limited size and impact of CAP support for young farmers, as pointed out by a recent report from the European Court of Auditors. The figures there tell us one simple truth: that our policy support to young farmers has failed to tackle the main barriers to entry for young farmers and that we should change tack to address these pressing issues.

To better support our young farmers, the Commission's proposals for the CAP post-2020 make the point that the CAP should give flexibility to Member States to develop tailor-made schemes that reflect the specific needs of their young farmers. A wide number of potential actions are suggested here, which are worth exploring. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that, as for other elements of the new CAP, it will be up to Member States to select their preferred set of options to address their specific circumstances. This means that, just as for other policy interventions under the new CAP, support to young farmers might differ significantly from one Member State to the other, which would undermine our capacity to tackle this priority at EU level.

Against this background, we have to remain vigilant and make sure that this top priority for EU agriculture translates into action at Member State level. With this aim in view, I am looking forward to working with CEJA to use your influence across Europe so that Member States deliver on this key objective of the new CAP.



# FOREWORD

**JANNES MAES**

CEJA PRESIDENT

## **DEAR YOUNG FARMERS,**

I am happy to address you all in this Foreword to CEJA's annual activity report for 2019. A new decade is upon us, and with the European elections, the diversity of protests related to the agricultural sector and the ongoing discussions regarding the CAP reform, we have glimpsed what is to come and the work we have left to do.

The European elections in May 2019, in which young Europeans were more involved than ever before, led to the setting up of a new Parliament. The Commission also underwent changes with a fresh group of delegates taking office. The new College of Commissioners, for the first time under female leadership, set out with a very ambitious agenda, including the Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal that are highly relevant to farmers. While we fully support the ambition to become the first climate-neutral continent, it is our duty to be a constant reminder that a sustainable and climate-friendly European agricultural sector can only be achieved if other challenges that (young) farmers face are tackled alongside these goals.

Young farmers are on the front line in the battle against climate change. We are familiar with the threats because we have experienced them first hand. While climate action is urgent and necessary, the policies needed to achieve our targets must take into consideration

the needs of young and future farmers. Our voices will be an increasingly crucial part of the debate at the global, European, national, regional and local levels. At the end of 2019, we approved our climate change position paper - a huge success thanks to your good work. I invite you all to use this paper as a tool for us to collectively mobilise so that nobody is left behind.

2019 was also an election year for CEJA. At our General Assembly in Sweden in June, the CEJA board was chosen for the 2019-2021 mandate: Samuel Masse, Seán Finan, Simon Wacke and Doris Letina. Together, we selected what we consider to be the most pressing issues for young farmers at the European level. Over the next two years, we will focus on the CAP reform, climate change, the bioeconomy, trade, and building up collaboration amongst our members. The General Assembly was also an opportunity to expand CEJA's reach through the approval of the observer membership of the Estonian Young Farmers' Organisation.

Generational renewal is a top priority across Europe, and CEJA will strive to ensure that it remains at the top of the agenda for all agriculture, rural development and environmental policies. This is a battle we must fight together, as member organisations from all corners of Europe, because collaborative action is crucial to translating global strategies into local action!

# INTERVIEWS WITH CEJA'S VICE PRESIDENTS



**SAMUEL MASSE**

CEJA VICE PRESIDENT

***WHY DID YOU RUN FOR ELECTION AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR MANDATE?***

I ran for election with the idea of playing a more active part in defending agriculture and generation renewal. I am interested in making sure all the organisations I am responsible for can have the information they need and a voice in the discussions. From this mandate, I expect that our position on climate change will be taken into account by EU politicians. I also hope we can share our positions with other organisations worldwide, as well as presenting them to the FAO. Lastly, I am interested in developing connections between other young farmers' organisations from all continents.

***IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING CEJA?***

The biggest challenge we will have to face during this mandate will be the transition

period of the CAP and the application of the CAP after this period to all the positions we have. We must also make sure that the improvements for young farmers in the CAP will be implemented.

***WHAT IS SOMETHING THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUNG FARMERS?***

Firstly, to be aware of the current situation facing the agricultural sector in terms of generational renewal and the aging of the farming population. Secondly, explaining the incredible diversity of young farmers in Europe, alongside the diversity of production, landscape and products. This could illustrate the huge opportunity the agricultural sector provides for young people looking for jobs with responsibilities and, in many cases, a better quality of life. Finally, the general public should know about our positions, including the most recent one on climate change.



## **SEÁN FINAN**

**CEJA VICE PRESIDENT**

### ***WHY DID YOU RUN FOR ELECTION AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR MANDATE?***

In May 2017 I finished my term as the National President of the Irish young farmers' organisation Macra na Feirme. I was an active participant in CEJA and saw first-hand the great work that the organisation does at a European level. I decided to put my name forward for a second term to continue my work on behalf of all European young farmers on the issues and policies that will determine our futures and in which Europe will play a pivotal role.

### ***IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING CEJA?***

CEJA is only as good as the member organisations it represents. It needs to continue to listen to their views and develop strong, robust policy position papers and documents. Like all young farmers' organisations, CEJA achieves a huge amount with limited financial resources. For the continued success and development of CEJA in future years, we need to develop a clear strategy which sets out the vision for the future growth and development of the organisation.

### ***WHAT IS SOMETHING THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUNG FARMERS?***

As young farmers we are the "new environmentalists". There is sometimes a fractious relationship between farmers and the environmental Pillar. As young farmers, we need to better sell the good work we do to protect, enhance and maintain the countryside as a public good. As young farmers, we are the true custodians of the countryside and the best people to deliver results-based, progressive environmental measures as part of next CAP.



## **SIMON WANCKE**

CEJA VICE PRESIDENT

### ***WHY DID YOU RUN FOR ELECTION AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR MANDATE?***

I am convinced that young farmers play a key role in the future support of our sector. I ran for election because I know that my contribution will make a difference when lobbying and advocating sustainable solutions dealing with this objective. By defending the interests of European young farmers, we can ensure a more balanced view on farming. I stress that we must take every opportunity to speak for CEJA's objectives, raise awareness and share experiences, knowing it will affect the view on our sector. For me it is about enabling CEJA to be an organisation that the next generations of European young farmers can rely on in the future.

### ***IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING CEJA?***

By now we know that the new CAP will be launched in 2022. It contains many opportunities for CEJA's members, but they need to be defended in order to enable the best outcome. With the Mercosur trade agreement, the market situation for our members will be challenged. I believe this is something that we need to put more focus on during the coming year's activities.

### ***WHAT IS SOMETHING THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUNG FARMERS?***

Farming is the way to ensure future innovation and sustainability. We as young farmers play a key role in the future of European food security. CEJA must therefore take every opportunity to speak about this topic and communicate about how important our sector is in this matter. My belief is that the next generation of European young farmers is more willing to increase its efforts to develop a more sustainable production system.





## **DORIS LETINA**

CEJA VICE PRESIDENT

### ***WHY DID YOU RUN FOR ELECTION AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR MANDATE?***

We are the ones who are living and who will live this agriculture. That is why we must also be the ones who tell what kind of agricultural sector we want: one in which we see a future and which provides us with a decent income. Only in this way will we be able to grow our farms sustainably. Together we can build the agriculture that we want to live.

### ***IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING CEJA?***

There are a lot of challenges, but integration, credibility and unity are, for me, the words that represent CEJA. These words give young farmers hope as well as results. Our mosaic is special exactly because we are different and have unique views, because we have answers to

challenges and challenges to answers. Each of us has some knowledge, experience and information. If we combine these pieces, we get a whole unit. With this we can create a better agriculture that we are all proud of. I believe that together, step by step, we can succeed.

### ***WHAT IS SOMETHING THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUNG FARMERS?***

We are the future of European agriculture, of European rural areas. Farmers are not just people who produce food, they feed people every day. This is often taken for granted. As young farmers, we invest time, work and energy into our profession and producing high-quality, safe food for others. This is our life and it is a life we love to live. Each stakeholder is important in this story and should be active in supporting young farmers.

# ORGANISATION

CEJA, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG FARMERS, WAS FOUNDED IN ROME IN 1958 WHEN YOUNG FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS FROM THE SIX INITIAL MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC) SET UP A "COMITÉ D'ENTENTE". THE ORGANISATION'S MAIN AIM IS TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG FARMERS TO EU INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS. CEJA'S MEMBERSHIP IS COMPOSED OF 32 NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND ONE ASSOCIATE MEMBER. IT STANDS FOR AROUND TWO MILLION YOUNG FARMERS ACROSS 23 MEMBER STATES AND SERBIA.

## ***IN BRIEF, CEJA:***

- RAISES THE ISSUE OF GENERATIONAL RENEWAL IN AGRICULTURE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, KEY DECISION-MAKERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS;

- ACTS AS A FACILITATOR IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE FOOD CHAIN;

- PROVIDES A NETWORKING PLATFORM FOR YOUNG FARMERS IN EUROPE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON FARMING, POLICY PERSPECTIVES AND AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.

## ***STRUCTURE***

CEJA is a non-profit international organisation based on democratic principles. It is led by a Presidency (one President and four Vice Presidents) that is elected every two years by the organisation's General Assembly. CEJA members meet regularly during working groups organised in Brussels and seminars held around Europe.

Alongside its member organisations and Presidency, CEJA also has a Brussels-based Secretariat. The Secretariat is composed of the Secretary General who oversees the day-to-day management of the office, a Policy Officer, a Project Officer and a Communications Officer. As of 2019, the CEJA Secretariat also included a Sustainability Liaison, a joint position held in conjunction with the Farming Systems Ecology group at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands.

## **THE SECRETARIAT:**

- MONITORS EU LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER EU MATTERS;

- LIAISES WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING COMMISSIONERS' CABINETS, MEPS, MEMBER STATES' PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS TO THE EU, AND OTHER EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS;

- CARRIES OUT LOBBYING, ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO FURTHER CEJA'S CAUSE.

# **2019 ACTIVITIES**

Over the course of 2019, CEJA hosted six working groups in Brussels, including the Presidium, a staff workshop and the Climakers Alliance workshop, co-organised with the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO). Three working groups and seminars took place abroad: one in Italy, one in Sweden (CEJA's annual General Assembly which included the election of the new board) and one in the Netherlands. CEJA was also involved in the organisation of a study session on democratic participation at the Council of Europe in Budapest (Hungary) with Rural Youth Europe.

A wide variety of issues were discussed by delegates at these meetings including the CAP reform, climate change and international trade. CEJA's working groups were also an opportunity for delegates to interact with stakeholders from around the EU invited to give presentations on relevant topics.

CEJA continued to collaborate with its sponsors, Massey Ferguson and DeLaval, over the course of 2019. CEJA's General

Assembly in Sweden took place at DeLaval's headquarters during which delegates had the chance to visit DeLaval's facilities and the fully operational on-site farm.

In November, CEJA co-organised the Climakers Alliance European Regional Workshop in association with the WFO. The aim was to discuss a farmer-driven climate change agenda and bring the conclusions to COP25 in Madrid. It was also an opportunity for young farmers from around the EU to present best practices on livestock, carbon sequestration, and adaptation and mitigation.

The final working group of the year took place at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands where delegates interacted directly with researchers and pioneering farmers. They discussed with them about what they wanted to see on the research agenda in the coming years and how it could be applied on the ground.



# LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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## **DEAR MEMBERS,**

2019 was a busy year for CEJA with meetings, campaigns, seminars abroad, the election of the CEJA Presidency 2019-2021, as well as a new Parliament and Commission taking office in Brussels. As the CEJA Secretariat, we wish to thank you for your dedication and cooperation. We are a small, yet ambitious office and it is also thanks to you that CEJA continues to successfully make the voices of young farmers heard in the EU policy arena and beyond.

CEJA welcomed two trainees in 2019: Joonas Sotgia (March – August) and Alice Minichini (June – November). Alice stayed on and is now CEJA's new Project Officer. We also welcomed back Mariana Debernardini, a CEJA trainee in 2018, as the Sustainability Liaison between CEJA and the Farming Systems Ecology group at Wageningen University and Research. Mariana helped organise the Climakers Alliance European Regional Workshop in November, the "Spotlight on Young Farmers" symposium in Wageningen in December, as well as assisting in the drafting CEJA's position paper on climate change.

In June 2019, CEJA delegates elected a new Presidency at the organisation's General Assembly in Sweden. The two-day meeting was held at DeLaval's headquarters in Tumba. Jannes Maes from Belgium was re-elected as President and Seán Finan from Ireland was re-elected as Vice President. Samuel Masse from France, Simon Wancke from Sweden and Doris Letina from Slovenia were elected for their first mandates as Vice Presidents. At the

General Assembly delegates also unanimously approved the observer membership of Eesti Noortalunikud, the Estonian Young Farmers' Organisation.

2020 is shaping up to be as busy as 2019 with working groups in Brussels and seminars in Slovenia (February) and France (April), on the agenda so far. Topics of discussion will include the ongoing CAP reform, climate change, international trade, the bioeconomy and the formulation of CEJA's vision for 2025.

It is also a year for further collaborations. These will include with Copa-Cogeca's Rural Coalition, the WFO and the Climakers Alliance, as well as with other organisations such as Rural Youth Europe with whom we organised a study session in Budapest and MIJARC Europe thanks to whom we attended the European Rural Youth Parliament in Spain. We also worked on a joint European Parliament elections campaign with the latter two organisations and published a manifesto with them called "Empowering Young Farmers and Rural Youth".

We hope you enjoyed 2019 as much as we did and look forward to working with you in 2020!

*Alessia Musumarra – Secretary General*

*Marion Picot – Policy Officer*

*Alice Minichini – Project Officer*

*Mariana Debernardini – CEJA/Farming Systems Ecology group (WUR) Sustainability Liaison*

*Fiona Lally – Communications Officer*

# MESSAGE FROM DELAVAL

*DEAR YOUNG FARMERS,*

Milk is one of the most important foods in the world, and our job is to make sure that the milk is produced in a sustainable way. In early 2019, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) released a report showing that total milk production volumes had grown by 30% from 2005 to 2015 while absolute emissions had grown by 18%. Without the productivity gains made by the industry and without farmers making investments into more efficient farms, the absolute emissions would have grown by 38%. At the same time, there was still an increase of 18%. The goal must be to reduce emissions even if volumes increase.

The report also showed that the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kg of milk varied depending on the geographic location of the dairy operations. A kg of milk produced in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, releases 6.6 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> whereas the corresponding figure in North America is 1.29 kg. This gives us at DeLaval a very clear indication that we can make a significant difference in reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per kg of milk and that this kind of work has a significant impact on the environmental impact of dairy farming globally.

DeLaval's position in the world depends on innovation and is based on collaborations. We are committed to supporting the future of farming and that means supporting young farmers. The collaboration we have with CEJA is incredibly important to us.

During 2019, DeLaval partnered with LRF (the Federation of Swedish Farmers) to host the General Assembly of CEJA at DeLaval's Hamra Farm just outside Stockholm. The event featured, among other things, a presentation from DeLaval experts on the future of data



## LARS JOHANSSON

*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,  
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
AND SUSTAINABILITY*

collection and management for dairy farmers, and a workshop on IOT (Internet of Things) technologies for different farms. In total, 68 young farmers attended, along with Joakim Rosengren, DeLaval President & CEO. The General Assembly was a great opportunity for us to gain an insight into the needs of young farmers.

Our vision is to make sustainable food production possible. As a company built on innovation, we constantly work to find ways of helping our customers, dairy farmers, do more with less by providing world-leading milking equipment and solutions.

Today, DeLaval has approximately 4,500 passionate professionals operating in more than 100 markets around the world.

# MESSAGE FROM MASSEY FERGUSON

*DEAR YOUNG FARMERS,*

Over the last seven years, Massey Ferguson has worked together with you to build a sustainable partnership with CEJA, driven by our shared vision to secure sustainable success for the new generation of farmers.

As one of the world's leading agricultural machinery brands, Massey Ferguson is committed to encouraging and promoting young farmers in producing food efficiently, sustainably and profitably by offering you a full range of straightforward and dependable machines and services.

Over the course of 2019, you've seen the Massey Ferguson brand bringing innovations to the market place and addressing today's and tomorrow's farmers' needs. Talking to young farmers' associations across all of our key markets, you told us that you won't make any decision on new machines investment unless you've got the opportunity to really test and drive them in the fields, close to your farms. We therefore made the decision to follow your advice, moving from traditional indoor shows to creating personalised events in which farmers could test out our products.

The climax of Massey Ferguson's Vision for the Future of Straightforward & Dependable machines was reached at Agritechnica 2019 where we unveiled our MF NEXT concept tractor, a vision of our future design but also of a fully connected machine and new human interface. As part of the programme



## THIERRY LHOTTE

*VICE-PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
MASSEY FERGUSON, EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST*

of CEJA's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, back in 2018, we measured the important role digitalisation and connectivity are having today in your activities. Not only did this inspire the development of the MF NEXT Concept, it also drove our effort in developing new digital tools.

Collaboration with young farmers is pivotal to our support and understanding of agricultural communities. It inspires our brand and employees to keep farmers at the centre of everything we do. We are committed to the future of farming and to the development of new techniques and technologies which are carried forward by young farmers. Our best wishes to CEJA and its members for continued success in 2020! We are very much looking forward to continuing our journey together.

# CEJA ELECTION

*CEJA DELEGATES ELECTED A NEW BOARD FOR 2019-2021 AT THE ORGANISATION'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN SWEDEN AT HAMRA FARM, THE HEADQUARTERS OF CEJA SPONSOR DELAVAL. THE FOLLOWING YOUNG FARMERS WERE ELECTED TO THE CEJA PRESIDENCY:*

*JANNES MAES (BELGIUM) – President (second mandate)  
SAMUEL MASSE (FRANCE) – Vice President (first mandate)  
SEÁN FINAN (IRELAND) – Vice President (second mandate)  
SIMON WANCKE (SWEDEN) – Vice President (first mandate)  
DORIS LETINA (SLOVENIA) – Vice President (first mandate)*





***Commenting on the election, CEJA President Jannes Maes said: "This General Assembly was a good moment to reflect on the way we work. I'm happy that CEJA has received the full support of its members to continue its work for European young farmers."***

***The gathering also saw the unanimous approval of the observer membership application of Eesti Noortalunikud, the Estonian Young Farmers' Organisation. A workshop on data sharing in the agricultural sector took place, as well as farm visits.***

***Following the election, the new board met to discuss their priorities for the coming two years. These include the CAP reform, climate change the bioeconomy, trade and Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs).***

***THE CLIMAKERS  
ALLIANCE  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
WORKSHOP  
AND THE  
"SPOTLIGHT  
ON YOUNG  
FARMERS"  
SYMPOSIUM***



In November, CEJA co-organised the Climakers Alliance European Regional Workshop in Brussels. The Climakers was initiated by the WFO and is a union of farmers' organisations, private sector actors, researchers and civil society groups that are committed to providing solutions to climate change.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss a farmer-driven climate change agenda and bring the conclusions to COP25 in Madrid.

The event welcomed 140 participants including farmers, stakeholders, policymakers and researchers for a day of debates and the sharing of best practices. There were dedicated sessions on livestock, carbon farming, and adaptation and resilience. High-level representatives were also present, including Kari Valonen from the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU.

In December, CEJA delegates gathered at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands for the "Spotlight on Young Farmers" symposium and a working group. They exchanged ideas with researchers about research agendas and the challenges they face at the farm level. They also had the possibility to interact with other pioneering farmers from around the world.

Delegates attended the Inaugural Address of Professor Rogier Schulte which focused on redesigning sustainable foodscapes. The following day, they discussed and approved CEJA's position paper on climate change which focuses on different areas of relevance, ranging from forestry and livestock to trade and consumers.

# ***CEJA POLICY PERSPECTIVES***

*CEJA'S EFFORTS IN THE EU POLICY ARENA OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE CAP, AS WELL AS A RANGE OF OTHER SUBJECTS.*

*The European Parliament elections were a major topic of interest for CEJA in the first half of 2019. Alongside Rural Youth Europe and MIJARC Europe, CEJA co-created a manifesto called "Empowering Young Farmers and Rural Youth" which was published and widely disseminated. CEJA's working group in April also included a young farmer speed dating event, during which CEJA delegates met candidates running for election and discussed issues of importance to them.*

*Regular updates on the future CAP were provided over the course of 2019 to inform working group discussions. During the October meeting, DG AGRI's Ricard Ramon i Sumoy presented the Commission's policy brief on young farmers and how generational renewal would be achieved in the future CAP. The CAP Strategic Plans were also debated as was the "green architecture".*

*In the latter half of 2019, climate change was the major focus topic for delegates. CEJA co-organised the Climakers Alliance European Regional Workshop in November, an event that gathered stakeholders from across the agricultural sector to discuss a farmer-driven climate change agenda. Delegates also worked on a position paper on climate change that was finalised and approved in December during the "Spotlight on Young Farmers" symposium at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands.*



## KEY POLICY PAPERS FROM 2019

# EMPOWERING YOUNG FARMERS AND RURAL YOUTH

In spring 2019, CEJA, Rural Youth Europe and MIJARC Europe, the three main European organisations representing rural youth and young farmers, published their EU elections manifesto.

The document is a call to action to bear the needs of Europe's rural youth in mind in future political discussions because young people are crucial to keeping rural communities alive while also providing a vital workforce to Europe's countryside.

The manifesto highlights that today's young people will be the ones working, investing in and preserving the environment and traditions of rural areas in the years to come and they cannot be forgotten.

The manifesto calls for action in seven key areas:

- Accessible and life-long education and training in and for rural areas;
- Targeted investments supporting activities that facilitate entrepreneurship in rural areas;

- Actions targeting the preservation of the social fabric of rural areas;

- Better availability of affordable health services in terms of infrastructure and assistance;

- Reliable infrastructure and connectivity ensuring fair and equal access to services and activities;

- Actions to tackle environmental and climate change challenges in rural areas; and

- Support for rural youth and young farmers' organisations in their engagement for the future of rural communities.

The manifesto's overarching aim is to raise awareness among politicians and stakeholders about the importance of the EU to rural communities, highlight the challenges rural communities are facing and offer concrete solutions to these problems.

The full document is available on the CEJA website.

# YOUNG FARMERS' CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In December 2019, CEJA delegates approved "Young farmers' call for climate action", the organisation's position paper on climate change. It states that young farmers are on the front line in the battle against climate change and realise the role they must play in ensuring a sustainable and resilient agriculture sector for the future.

The document also explains that climate action is urgent and necessary, but measures must simultaneously recognise all the services that agriculture provides socially, economically and environmentally. A systems approach that addresses the already impeding obstacles that young farmers face is urgent.

There are three key areas of climate action that young farmers are collectively prepared to address:

- Adaptation (on-farm practices; knowledge, technology and innovation; investment aid; and risk management)
- Emissions reduction (the livestock sector; energy and the bio-economy; the food supply chain and consumers; and trade)
- Carbon sequestration (forestry; peatlands and organic soils; land use management; land use change; and carbon farming tools)

The need for financial stability and security to invest in long-term projects cannot be understated and as the debate unfolds, young farmers' voices need to be heard because they will be implementing the necessary measures in the decades to come.

The full document is available on the CEJA website.

# COMMUNICATIONS

*TWITTER: 5,371 FOLLOWERS*

*INSTAGRAM: 605 FOLLOWERS*

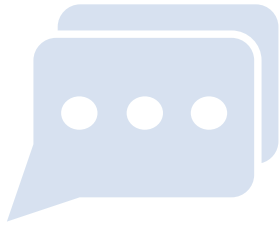
*FACEBOOK: 5,596 FOLLOWERS*

*LINKEDIN: 561 FOLLOWERS*

*NEWSLETTERS: 43*

*PRESS RELEASES: 16*

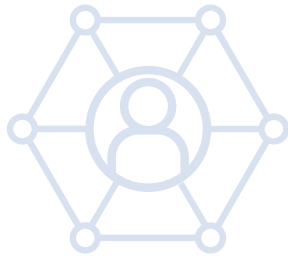




*CEJA's communications strategy is evolving with the organisation's aims to find new ways of interacting with its members and the general public.*



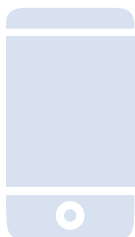
*Visitors to CEJA's social media profiles increased throughout 2019. Its Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn profiles are updated regularly. CEJA also sends a weekly newsletter and publishes press releases that it sends to journalists in Brussels and around Europe.*



*In 2019 CEJA comprehensively updated and re-launched its website that now also includes a dedicated Members' Area in which delegates can find an archive of documents relevant to the organisation.*



*CEJA also organised campaigns on social media to raise awareness about specific policy issues. Its widest reaching one was for the European Parliament elections in May 2019. It involved regularly posting videos from members urging people to go and vote, as well as highlighting the points in the organisation's dedicated election manifesto.*



*In 2020, CEJA will continue to carry out campaigns in relation to its advocacy and lobbying goals.*

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***PROJECTS,  
CIVIL DIALOGUE  
GROUPS AND  
MARKET  
OBSERVATORIES***

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### **AGRISAFETYNET**

AgriSafetyNet is a two-year Erasmus+ project launched in September 2019 with an international consortium of partners. It aims to train farmers and agricultural authorities on health and safety education, and decrease occupational hazards.

### **FARMINFIN**

FARMINFIN is a two-year Erasmus+ project launched in November 2019 with an international consortium of partners of which CEJA is the leader. The project aims to train farmers on innovative financing methods in the farming sector and support development in rural areas.

### **INFOPAC**

The INFOPAC project is a one-year EU-funded partnership between CEJA and the Italian media organisation AgriFoodToday. The aim of the project is to explain through short video interviews how farmers around Europe have benefitted from the CAP.

### **ERASMUS+ OPERATING GRANT**

In 2019 CEJA was again successful in securing funding under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme for a Framework Partnership Agreement. This operating grant ensures structural support for European non-governmental organisations active in the field of youth. Specifically for CEJA, the funding supports its work in fostering the active engagement of farmers in EU-level decision-making.

### **CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUPS AND MARKET OBSERVATORIES**

Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) provide an opportunity for the European Commission and stakeholders to discuss issues relating to the CAP and its implementation. CEJA holds 69 seats across the 13 groups and sends its young farmer experts to meetings.

CEJA experts also participate in EU Market Observatories which review market data for specific sectors. CEJA has two seats in each of the milk, crops/cereal and sugar market observatories and four for meat. As of 2019, five new market observatories were created on citrus, stone and pip fruits, tomatoes, and wine, for each of which CEJA sends two experts.

# MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



**AUSTRIA**  
*Landjugend Österreich*  
[landjugend.at](http://landjugend.at)

*Österreichische Jungbauernschaft*  
[jungbauern.at](http://jungbauern.at)



**BELGIUM**  
*Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs*  
[fja.be](http://fja.be)

*Groene Kring*  
[groenekring.be](http://groenekring.be)



**CYPRUS**  
*Cyprus Young Farmers' Organisation Council*  
Συμβούλιο ΝΕΩΝ Αγροτών Κύπρου – *CYFOC*



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
*Společnost mladých agrárníků České republiky*  
[smacr.cz](http://smacr.cz)



**DENMARK**  
*LandboUngdom*  
[landbounghdom.dk](http://landbounghdom.dk)



**ENGLAND AND WALES**  
*NFU Next Generation*  
[nfuonline.com/sectors/next-generation/](http://nfuonline.com/sectors/next-generation/)



**ESTONIA**  
*Eesti Noortalunikud*  
[www.noortalunikud.ee](http://www.noortalunikud.ee)



**FINLAND**  
*Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto*  
[mtk.fi](http://mtk.fi)  
*Svenska lantbruksproducenternas centralförbund*  
[slc.fi](http://slc.fi)



**FRANCE**  
*Jeunes Agriculteurs*  
[jeunes-agriculteurs.fr](http://jeunes-agriculteurs.fr)



**GERMANY**  
*Bund der Deutschen Landjugend*  
[landjugend.de](http://landjugend.de)



**GREECE**  
*Panhellenic Young Farmers' Association*



**HUNGARY**  
*Fiatel Gazdák Magyarországi Szövetsége*  
[agrya.hu](http://agrya.hu)



**IRELAND**  
*Macra na Feirme*  
[macra.ie](http://macra.ie)





**ITALY**

*Associazione Giovani Imprenditori Agricoli  
agia.it*

*Associazione Nazionale Giovani Agricoltori  
confagricoltura.it*

*Coldiretti Giovani Impresa  
coldiretti.it*



**LITHUANIA**

*Lietuvos jaunųjų ūkininkų ir jaunimo sąjunga  
jujs.lt*



**LUXEMBOURG**

*Centrale Paysanne  
centralepaysanne.lu*

*Lëtzebuurger Landjugend a Jongbaueren  
jongbaueren.lu*



**THE NETHERLANDS**

*Nederlands Agrarisch Jongeren Kontakt  
najk.nl*



**POLAND**

*Związek Młodzięży Wiejskiej  
zmw.pl*

*Związek Zawodowy Centrum Narodowe Młodych  
Rolników  
zccnrmr.pl*



**PORTUGAL**

*Associação dos Jovens Agricultores de Portugal  
ajap.pt*



**SERBIA (Associate Member)**

*Srpsko udruženje mladih poljoprivrednika  
sump.rs*



**SLOVAKIA**

*Združenie mladých farmárov na Slovensku  
mladyfarmar.sk*



**SLOVENIA**

*Zveza slovenske podeželske mladine  
zspm.si*



**SPAIN**

*ASAJA Joven  
asaja.com*

*Juventudes Agrarias de COAG  
coag.org*

*UPA Joven  
upa.es*



**SWEDEN**

*Lantbrukarnas Riksförbund (LRF)*

# CALENDAR FOR 2020

## JANUARY

**13** CEJA Presidency meeting (BELGIUM)

**14-19** Global Forum for Food  
and Agriculture (GERMANY)

**27-29** EUREKA project  
kick-off meeting (BELGIUM)

## MARCH

**24-25** CEJA working  
group (BELGIUM)

## MAY

**14-15** FARMINFIN  
project meeting (ITALY)

**25-26** CEJA working  
group and Presidium (BELGIUM)

## FEBRUARY

**3-5** CEJA working group  
and seminar (SLOVENIA)

**18** Amplifying local voices:  
Addressing rural development  
in the CAP post 2020 (BELGIUM)

## APRIL

**23-25** AgriSafetyNet  
project meeting (SPAIN)

**23-25** CEJA working  
group and seminar (FRANCE)

## JUNE

**22-23** CEJA WORKING  
GROUP AND GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



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OF THE YEAR**

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[CEJA YOUNG FARMERS](#)

[CEJA.EU](#)

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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

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**BELGIUM**