



EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG FARMERS
CONSEIL EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS
EUROPÄISCHER RAT DER JUNGLANDWIRTE

19/02/2025

Brussels, Belgium

PRESS RELEASE

Vision for the Future of Agriculture and Food sets the tone for the young farmers of today and tomorrow

Today, the European Commission unveiled an ambitious and unprecedented toolbox for young farmers in its *Vision for the Future of Agriculture and Food*, setting up the tone for the next 15 years and giving much-needed predictability for the establishment and development of sustainable and competitive farming activities. CEJA welcomes the strategic document and encourages the EU's executive, co-legislators and involved actors to seize the opportunities of the Vision to create a transformative push for the sector. The latter should make the profession more attractive while enabling the conditions for EU agriculture to reach its mid-century objectives in terms of competitiveness, climate neutrality and social inclusion, among others.

CEJA's President Peter Meedendorp applauded the publication: "For several decades now, we have encouraged the EU and Member States to adopt a toolbox approach to our sector. That means enabling the right conditions for new generations to set up and develop competitive and sustainable activities, able in return to act towards our common EU objectives." He added, nevertheless, that: "The ambition is there and we remain committed to it, but one can wonder how to make it work in reality, especially when looking at last week's announcements on the future Multiannual Financial Framework. If we want to push for a more solid continuum between our agriculture, climate objectives and trade realities, then we must match the appropriate means. As it looks now, we are very much concerned that the Vision will face a harsh reality check."

Europe's young farmers highlight the innovative stance taken by the Commission for the upcoming Strategy on Generational Renewal, specifically on the topic of land access, mobility and use. The creation of the European Land Observatory, and the push towards Member States to work on their social and taxation policies, are long-standing claims from CEJA. The attention given to socio-economic resilience is also to be underlined, including a clear value chain approach, more coherence on risk and crisis management, new perspectives on the future CAP and a bolder attitude towards investments. Last but not least, the emphasis on rural areas, long-awaited, sets the groundwork for the territorial pact at the heart of CEJA's vision.

All in all, the Vision contributes to placing agriculture in its right place again, as a contributor to the security, competitiveness and innovation agenda of the Union. For certain objectives, however, CEJA would have wished to see a more specific strategy. When it comes to environment and climate, while the contribution expected from farmers remains clear, and the shared responsibility with Member States is acknowledged, there will need to be further discussions to determine how to adapt the tools to the different territorial challenges on the continent, while maintaining a necessary degree of accountability. As it stands, it is still unclear at the farm level what is expected by every single young farmer according to their sector and territory. In relation to trade, young farmers take note of the vow for more assertiveness and realism but wonder whether the EU has the resources to make it happen.

Looking at the future, CEJA remains committed to its constructive approach and stands ready to design and implement the steps necessary to make the Vision come to life. Young farmers will make sure to keep the European Commission accountable for its ambitions, as they will define, for a large part, their living and working conditions in the future, as well as their own ambitions.

The European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) represents the political interests of around two million young farmers from across Europe. Its main objectives are to facilitate the installation of young farmers, to inform and train them as well as act as a forum for communication and dialogue between them.

More information:

Marion Picot, Secretary General

Tel: +32 495 51 24 74 / Email: m.picot@ceja.eu

CEJA – European Council of Young Farmers
Rue de la Loi, 67 – 7th floor, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 230 4210
www.ceja.eu