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

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PRESS RELEASE

# CEJA elects new Presidency for 2025-2027: "a strong call for continuity and unity amid uncertain times"

**The national delegates of the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) convened today during the General Assembly of the organisation to elect a new Presidency for the 2025-2027 mandate, giving a strong signal of continuity amid uncertain times. Dutch arable young farmer Peter Meedendorp is re-elected for a second mandate, together with the same Vice Presidents: Rūdolfs Pulkstenis (Latvia), Elisabeth Hidén (Sweden), Katharina Schobersberger (Austria) and Matteo Pagliarani (Italy). The Presidency will be designing its priorities and presenting them during its first Working Group in September.**

Following his successful re-election, President Peter Meedendorp highlighted that: "Beyond today's vote and proceedings in general is a strong call for continuity and unity, at a time when young farmers' organisations are facing structural and policy uncertainties. It has been an honour for me to serve such committed and like-minded individuals, and I am looking forward to continuing our work with our Presidency and Secretariat. My priority is to ensure that our members feel, not only represented, but also heard at the highest level."

The General Assembly also approved the budget of the organisation and welcomed two new observer members to the network standing for associate status, the Network of Young Agripreneurs (Mzeza mladih agropreduzetnika – MMA) from the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and NFU Scotland Next Generation from the United Kingdom (more information to come).

More information on the profiles of the Presidency below.

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*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.*

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# Biographies

**Peter Meedendorp (President) -** My name is Peter Meedendorp, a young farmer from the northern part of the Netherlands, in the province of Groningen. On our arable farm, we grow potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, onions, fibre hemp, and corn. Over the past two years, we have added chicory and buckwheat to our crop rotation. In addition, we provide contract work for the dairy sector and are active in agri-environmental management. I run the farm together with my father, brother and our team of staff members. I have been involved in CEJA since 2021 as a delegate of NAJK, the Dutch young farmers' association. I previously served as vice president of NAJK. In the board I was responsible for European and international affairs. For the past two years, I have had the honour of serving as president of CEJA. My academic background is in International Relations (University of Groningen) and Agricultural Economics (Wageningen University).

**Rūdolfs Pulkstenis (Vice President)** - After studying business administration and various work experiences, my family and I moved back to our hometown seven years ago. My starting point in agriculture was in 2015 when I started organic cereal farming on family and rented land almost from scratch while working full-time in the financial institutions sector. Three years later an additional logging company was established. I feel that a passion for agriculture, forestry and the land has been in my DNA for over five generations. Since 2020 I have been on the board of the Latvian Young Farmers club. I am responsible for representing our interests and positions in our government, CAP working groups, media and other stakeholders. I was Latvia's representative at CEJA since LYFC rejoined in December 2021 and for the past two years I was honoured to represent CEJA.

**Elisabeth Hidén (Vice President)** - I am Elisabeth, 29 years old, from Sweden. I am a dairy farmer with 200 cows, as well as forestry and biogas production. I hold a degree in agronomy and have several years of experience serving on various agricultural boards. For the past two years, I have had the honour of being CEJA vice president – a role I am proud of and deeply humbled by. When I am not participating in CEJA working groups, you'll usually find me in the barn or spending time with my husband and our two children. I have been involved in agriculture in one way or another since my early teens – starting on my parents' farm, then running my own business providing farm services, after that giving agricultural lectures to kids, working on a Canadian farm, and selling seeds, plant protection products, and fertilisers. And now, finally, as a dairy farmer.

**Katharina Schobersberger (Vice President)** - My name is Katharina, I'm 27 years old and work at the Rural Education Institute in Vienna. Outside of work, I'm closely involved with my family's farm in Upper Austria, where we raise breeding sows and grow cereals to feed them. We also have a forestry patch. I have an academic foundation in organic agricultural systems, focusing on animal husbandry. Recently, I finished a policy training program of the young farmers in my region. Professionally, I worked at the Austrian Permanent Representation and completed farm internships in France, Sweden, and Austria. From 2022, I had the honour of representing rural youth at CEJA for 1.5 years and was later elected Vice-President. Over these two years, I have built a strong network and developed an understanding of EU agricultural policymaking.

**Matteo Pagliarani (Vice President)** - I am a farmer, winegrower, and wine producer, as well as a sheep milk producer and agrotourism entrepreneur. Agriculture has always been a big part of my life—it's not just my work, it's my passion. Over the years, together with my family I've built my business around sustainable production, the green economy, and rural tourism, always maintaining a deep connection with the rural territory. I also enjoy creating links between agriculture and the restaurant sector, and I'm active as a trainer and communicator, spreading knowledge and raising awareness about the rural world. My background includes serving as a youth representative of AGIA-Cia, where I've advocated for the next generation of farmers and agricultural leaders.