



06/07/2026

Zadar, Croatia

PRESS RELEASE

## From ambition to investment: young farmers call for the future CAP to deliver generational renewal at MED9 Informal Meeting

At the Informal Meeting of Agriculture Ministers and Ministers responsible for Demography of the MED9 countries, CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers, called on Member States to ensure that the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides young farmers with the predictable conditions needed to invest over the long term. While welcoming the broad support expressed during the discussions for a more strategic approach to generational renewal, including through national Generational Renewal Strategies and the Starter Pack for Young Farmers, the organisation underlined that these ambitions must now be matched by dedicated financial commitments.

*"The fact that Agriculture Ministers and Ministers responsible for Demography are discussing generational renewal together is an important political signal. It recognises that the renewal of our farming population is no longer simply an agricultural challenge. It is about the future of our rural territories, our food security and Europe's long-term resilience," said Matteo Pagliarani, Vice President of CEJA and young farmer from Emilia-Romagna, Italy. "Young farmers are not asking for special treatment; they are asking for predictable conditions to invest over a lifetime. We welcome the growing support for a more strategic approach to generational renewal, but strategies alone will not reverse the demographic decline affecting European agriculture. If generational renewal is a European priority, it must also become a European investment priority."*

CEJA therefore reiterated its call for a dedicated financial envelope for young farmers within the future CAP. While the European Commission recommends allocating at least 6% of national CAP Plans to generational renewal, CEJA continues to advocate for 10%, warning that the reluctance of some Member States to support dedicated funding risks weakening one of the central ambitions of the reform.

The organisation also stressed that the Mediterranean region illustrates particularly clearly why generational renewal can no longer be discussed in isolation from climate adaptation. Ageing farming populations, water scarcity, increasing climate pressures and rural depopulation increasingly converge in the same territories, making long-term investment and adaptation essential conditions for maintaining agricultural production.

*"Our Mediterranean landscapes have been shaped over generations by vineyards, olive groves, orchards, rice fields and extensive livestock systems. Preserving these productions is about much more than maintaining agricultural output. It is about preserving landscapes, communities and a cultural heritage that defines our region. Supporting young farmers also means preparing these farms for tomorrow's climate," continued Pagliarani.*

CEJA further highlighted that generational renewal strategies should go beyond agricultural measures alone, bringing together policies on access to land, finance, advisory services, education, rural services and climate adaptation to create the conditions for young people to establish themselves and remain in farming.

*"The real question is no longer whether young people want to farm. It is whether Europe creates the conditions that allow them to stay, invest and build a future. That is the responsibility we collectively have as we shape the next Common Agricultural Policy," concluded Pagliarani.*

---

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](mailto:m.picot@ceja.eu)