

To: Agriculture Ministers of EU Member States

Cc: Commissioners for Agriculture and Food, for Health and Animal Welfare, and for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, and the Chairs of the European Parliament Agriculture and Environment Committees

Re: Input to the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council Meeting, Brussels, 14th of July 2025

Brussels, 9th of July 2025

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the European Environmental Bureau, I am writing to share our views on the issues on the agenda of the forthcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting. We invite you to take our concerns into account during the final preparations as well as at the Council meeting itself.

Danish presidency work programme

We welcome the Danish Presidency's commitment to support the transition to sustainable food systems at the EU level, including by facilitating negotiations on the post-2027 CAP with a view to "support rural development, organic farming, generational renewal and animal welfare, while aligning more closely with sectoral legislation, including climate and environmental legislation". We also appreciate the Presidency's food systems-approach, including the pledge to explore "the potential of a common EU action plan for plant-based foods and a common EU protein strategy". Finally, the commitment to improving animal welfare and modernising relevant legislation in line with scientific evidence and citizens' expectations is important and timely. All of these points align with the recommendations included in our [Memorandum to the Danish Presidency of the Council](#), published last week.

We therefore call upon the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to:

- **Support ambitious EU action on agriculture, food systems, and animal welfare** in recognition of the urgency to address the triple climate, nature and pollution crises while also improving farmers' livelihoods and promoting generational renewal.
- Call on the Commission to ensure **inclusive, transparent, and evidence-based policy-making on agri-food policies**, and lead by example in this regard at both national and EU level.

European Environmental Bureau

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International non-profit association • Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL) • EC register for interest representatives:

ID number: 06798511314-27 • BCE ID number: 0415.814.848 • RPM Tribunal de l'entreprise francophone de Bruxelles

Proteins diversification for food and feed

The [Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) shed a light on how the EU's protein supply's "high reliance on high-quality imports from a limited number of origins, [makes] our food system vulnerable to global market fluctuations and sustainability risks"; therefore stressing the need to "consider both the way protein is produced and consumed in the EU". We welcome the Danish Presidency's decision to hold an exchange of views on protein diversification for food and feed.

Advancing the diversification of our protein production and consumption system holds the potential of improving public health, alleviating the environmental impacts of our agricultural practices and diets, strengthening the EU's strategic autonomy, as well as creating new market opportunities for farmers and the agri-food sector generally.

Last September, the Strategic Dialogue for Agriculture and Food reached a historic consensus between farming representatives, NGOs, and agri-food industry actors, which amongst others called for an EU Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods to be developed by 2026. This recommendation has been echoed by 130 organisations in a [Joint Call to the European Commission](#) to develop an EU Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods, further detailed in a recent [Blueprint to guide the development of such an Action Plan](#).

We therefore call upon the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to:

- Unequivocally support a **transition to fair and sustainable food systems**, moving beyond the misinformation and polarisation currently afflicting the debate and delaying action.
- Call on the Commission to start work on a **comprehensive EU Protein Diversification Strategy**, including food and feed, and an **EU Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods**, including exploring the potential of EU-level consumption-side policies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these points which will help address the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises in the EU and give citizens confidence that their leaders are taking decisions to create the basis for a better future for them.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick ten Brink,

Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau

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