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## Press Release

### EU FARM LEADERS EMPHASISE POSITIVE ROLE AGRICULTURE PLAYS IN BUILDING EUROPE

As the EU Commission releases its EU 2020 Strategy, EU Farm Leaders emphasised today the vital contribution that the EU agriculture sector makes to building Europe and to maintaining growth and employment in rural areas.

Copa President Pdraig Walshe stressed “The EU agriculture sector represents a huge source of employment, accounting for nearly 30 million people , working either part-time or full-time on farms in the EU. Taking into account related sectors in the food chain, we estimate that one in six jobs in the EU depends upon agricultural production. Faced with rising world food demand and increased risks to food production from climate change and greater market volatility, it is more important than ever for the EU to maintain agricultural activity. Agriculture consequently has a big role to play in the EU Commissions’ proposed 2020 strategy for the next 10 years”.

Cogeca President Paolo Bruni stated “With a strong CAP post-2013, agriculture can do even more to achieving the challenges of food security; combating climate change and maintaining employment. The future CAP should focus on a better functioning market. Farmers’ bargaining position in the food chain also needs be strengthened and measures to help farmers become more competitive must be reinforced. This policy must be discussed before talks on the EU budget take place”.

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