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## Press Release

### **Future of Food and Farming: Copa and Cogeca outline views to EU Farm Ministers**

Copa and Cogeca urged EU Farm Ministers today for a real simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the future, with measures to attract young blood to the sector.

Speaking in Bulgaria, Copa Vice-President Joe Healy warned “The EU Commission’s proposals do not amount to simplification. We are very concerned about the impact of them. We call on Ministers to ensure that the next CAP provides simpler and clearer rules and policy tools for farmers and cooperatives to use. It must also remain a truly common policy. We cannot accept any renationalization of the CAP.”

“With farmers’ incomes at 40% of average earnings, ring-fencing desperately needed direct support towards climate change objectives under the proposal is also not acceptable. This comes on top of pressure from agricultural concessions being negotiated by the EU in the bilateral trade negotiations”, added Healy.

Copa and Cogeca nevertheless welcome the Commission move to put more focus on smart farming and on measures to help farmers better manage risk. In this respect, broadband access is vital so that farmers and cooperatives can make use of the new technologies. It will also make it more attractive for young people to join the sector. Research and innovation and advisory services driven by farmers’ needs must also be a priority.

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