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Press Release

Copa and Cogeca welcome ambitious EU research and innovation programme

Copa and Cogeca welcomed today release of the EU's proposed future Framework Programme - Horizon Europe - for research and innovation. It is key for tackling major societal and global challenges, especially to find solutions that will help the EU agriculture and forestry sectors reach the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

It is also vital to meet the needs of a growing world population set to reach 10 billion by 2050.

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen stressed "We believe that only through a sustainable and competitive agriculture and forestry sectors in the EU will we be able to overcome challenges, such as climate change, rural exodus and contribute to the transition towards a more circular bioeconomy and to resource efficiency in EU".

"We need to make sure that farmers and forest owners will fully benefit from it. The continuation of the current 'multi-actor concept' for instance is key for finding solutions that are practical and that can be implemented on the ground in an easy and affordable way", added Pesonen.

"Furthermore, we support a 'missions-oriented' approach to foster break-through solutions. This could especially be relevant to solve challenges linked to climate change and food security. Participation in these missions must remain attractive for farmers and forest owners and their cooperatives. "

"The level of administrative work required from project participants also remains too high. This acts as a major obstacle to engagement in research projects, especially for newcomers and small organisations. "We need specific rules and procedures for small organisations as they are vital to further reduce administrative costs and to simplify participation", he concluded.

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