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Press Release

EU Farmers' Congress calls for rethink on generation renewal in agriculture

Today in Linz, Austria, Copa-Cogeca's Congress called for a rethink of the policies at EU and Member State levels on how to entice young farmers to stay on the land.

The coming CAP needs to seriously consider the future of investments in agriculture and the innovations needed to feed Europe. The next generation of farmers will increasingly need to attract investment. This requires stability and the tools to adequately manage risks.

Only eleven percent of all farmers are under 40. Simple demographics show that more will need to be done to attract younger people to farming. *"We cannot afford further desertification of our rural areas, in terms of either people or environment. These are the things keeping both consumers and the countryside alive,"* explained President Joachim Ruckwied, President of COPA.

It is time for a rethink on generation renewal. Without an adequate set of tools for the next generation of farmers, Europe will witness a real shortage of active farmers and will not be able to deliver on environment and climate commitments.

There are many external factors such as international trade and climate change which will have profound effects on agriculture. The Congress stressed that farmers are willing and able to be part of the solutions and will require support and leadership from authorities to deliver the kind of agriculture that society wants.

"We need to see priority given to encouraging generation renewal. Long-term support for young farmers to start and develop their businesses must be made available through the proposed CAP national strategic plans," said Thomas Magnusson, President of Cogeca.

The Congress explored the new information and digital paradigm facing the future of agriculture and the need for farmers to be increasingly innovative, sustainable and resilient.

Regarding the future CAP the Congress called for a stable budget with no cuts to direct payments or rural development. Simplification must be a priority, especially at the Member State level, where a high degree of transparency will be necessary for the development of national strategic plans ensuring that the commonality of the CAP is not compromised.

The next European Farming Congress will be in Croatia in October 2020.

Download Congress Pictures and our cartoon reporting on the European Farmer Congress [HERE](#)

For further information, please contact:

Pekka Pesonen

Secretary General

Tel.: +32 2 287 27 11

Pekka.pesonen@copa-cogeca.eu

Jean-baptiste Boucher

Communications Director

Mobile: + 32 474 840 836

Jean-baptiste.boucher@copa-cogeca.eu
