



How should the European Green Deal affect EU agri-food trade?



copa

european farmer



cogeca

european agri-cooperatives

Created in **1958**

10 million European farmers + family members

65 full members from the EU Member States and 30 partner organisations

Created in **1959**

22,000 European agricultural cooperatives

30 full members from the EU Member States, 4 affiliated members and 30 partner organisations



In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past **60+** years.



Mission

To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



Objective

Promoting European farmers and agri-cooperatives views to contribute to the EU decision-making process and inform public opinion.

Copa-Cogeca decision process



Working Parties

- * **45** Working Parties, which deal with market and policy developments
- * Initiate and prepare joint Copa and Cogeca positions
- * Topics: commodities, cooperative affairs, rural development, biotechnology, the environment, animal health & welfare ...



POCC / CCC

- * All member organisations represented
- * Discuss proposals from the Working Parties, prepare Praesidium
- * Coordination of all Copa and Cogeca policies



Copa and Cogeca Praesidium

- * Made up of the Presidents of the Member Organisations (**66**)
- * Copa and Cogeca each have a Praesidium, Presidency and President
- * Approve all strategic orientations and policy positions

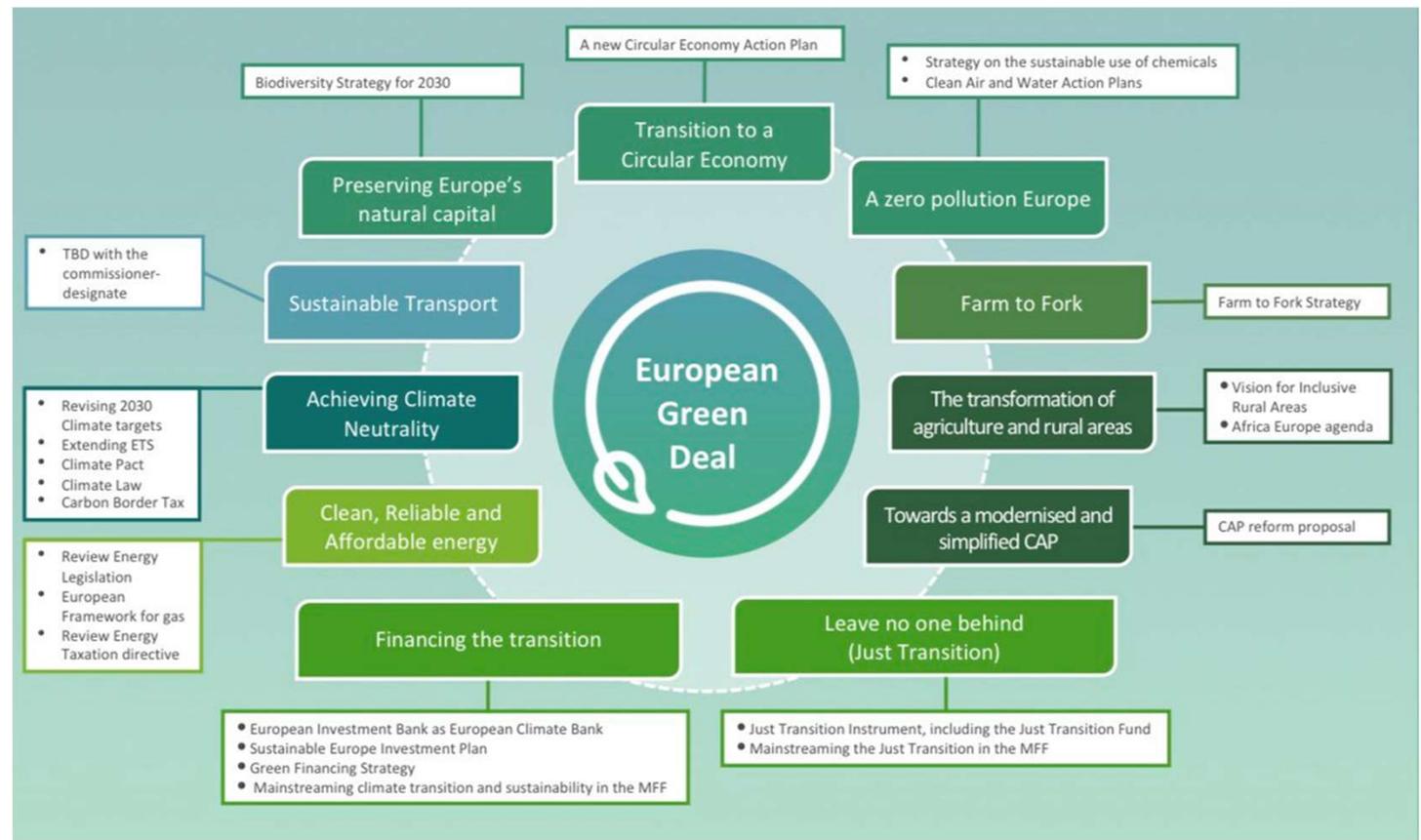


Christiane Lambert (FR)
Current Copa President

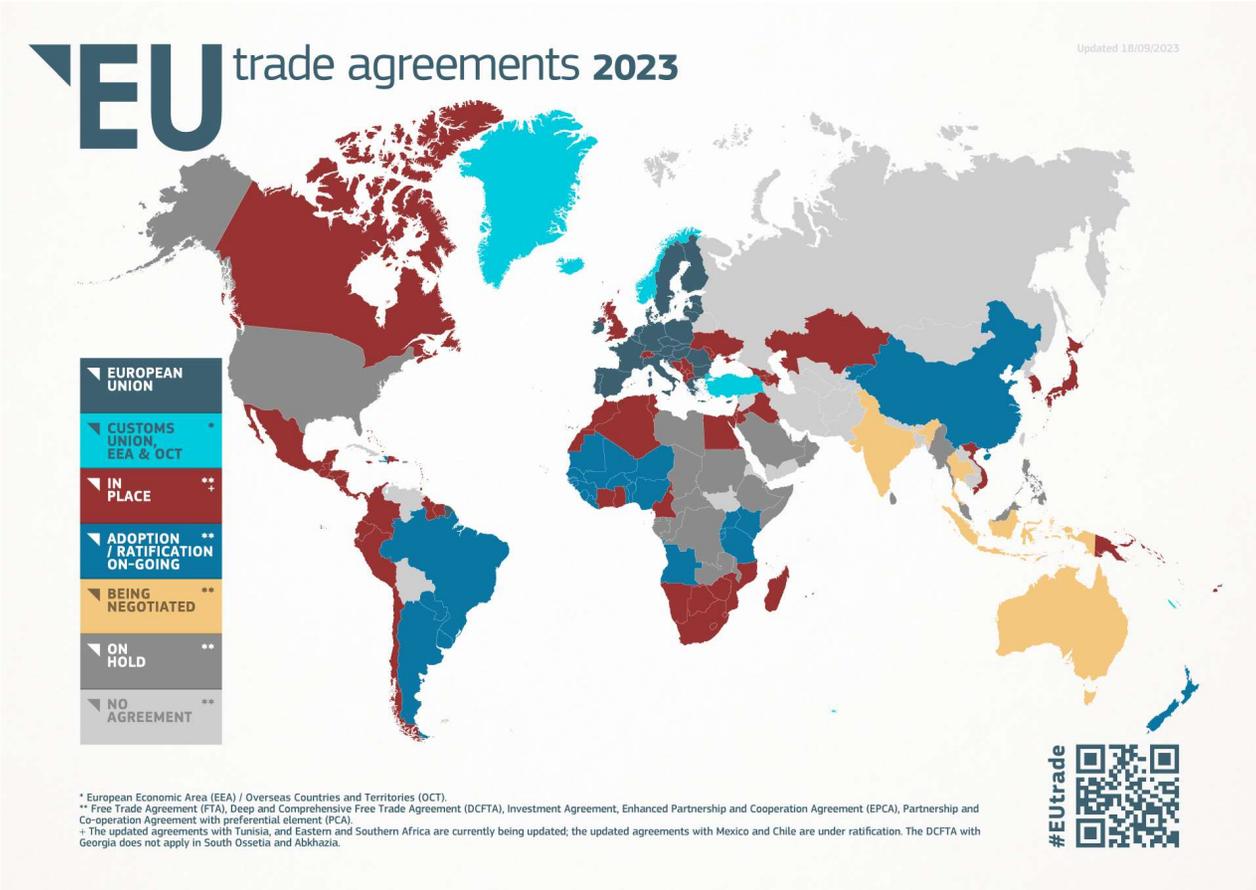


Ramon Armengol (ES)
Current Cogeca President

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL



EUROPEAN TRADE AGENDA



EU TRADE AGENDA

- Copa-Cogeca has always supported trade within the EU and with third countries, provided it was balanced and fair.
- Out of 44 million jobs that are linked to agri-food chain activities, around six million are directly linked to exports. Agri-food exports represent almost 1/3 of the EU's total net trade balance.
- In a post-COVID world, ridden with geopolitical tensions, our trade must be based on balanced, fair and transparent rules to avoid distortion of competition and preserve the strategic role of EU's agri-food production.
- The best way to ensure this approach is through multilateral trade agreements and we hence regret the lack of well functioning WTO.
- We should establish common ground with our allies on food safety, sustainability, or the climate and on how to integrate Paris climate agreement into the trading system with clear enforcement mechanisms.
- While we have been able to develop a common position with our trading partners in certain areas through bilateral agreements, without a sufficient WTO framework, the sector still faces a series of challenges.



EU GREEN DEAL & AGRI-FOOD TRADE

- The European Green Deal is expected to bring about significant changes in trade patterns in the agri-food sector within the EU and globally.
- On one hand the Green Deal proposals will ask for additional investment on sustainability at the farm/production level, in order to raise our standards.
- On the other hand, the cumulative access from the 60+ trade agreements to our market by third country producers, that do not necessarily have to fulfil the same production standards, will continue to affect the prices and the competitiveness of our producers.
- This could possibly result in the relocation of our agriculture production to other parts of the world, with lower standards, while compromising our strategic autonomy and food security.



EU GREEN DEAL & AGRI-FOOD TRADE

STUCK IN BETWEEN



EU GREEN DEAL & AGRI-FOOD TRADE

COHERENCY IS KEY

IMPACT ASSESMENTS:

- Proposals taken within the Green Deal, or our trade policy decisions must be subject to a rigorous and comprehensive impact assessment.
- Often there is not a full understanding of the cumulative impact of different proposals on the farm level, especially when combined with trade agenda as well.

SFS:

- A chapter on sustainable food systems should be a non-negotiable feature in all future deals.
- However, for us the doubt remains on whether this chapter be enough to ensure the consistency of our future agreements with the principles of the Green Deal?
- Ensuring compliance with the limitations and obligations to which European producers must adhere to will be hard to monitor effectively and we will have to remain extremely careful.



EU GREEN DEAL & AGRI-FOOD TRADE

AUTONOMOUS MEASURES - CBAM, EUDR and CSDD

- Autonomous trade measures such as CBAM, EUDR and CSDD all have direct and indirect impact on the agricultural sector
- **CBAM** – even if it doesn't cover agriculture directly, with the inclusion of fertilizers and some materials like aluminum and steel there is an indirect impact on the sector through the likely rise of input/production cost
- **EUDR and CSDD** are increasing the administrative burden tremendously.
- **EUDR** – since the start , the operators have called for practical guidance, but eight months away from the implementation date, they are still left to wonder about essential parts of the Regulation. As a result, supply and investment risks are rising as well as costs related to compliance.



Risks of being a front runner

- * One of the main risks that our agriculture sector will have to face as a side effect of the European Green Deal is dumping from countries that will voluntarily or involuntarily move more slowly with the adoption of a greener agriculture.
- * We are glad to keep and contribute to achieving a more sustainable agriculture in Europe, but we have no appetite to end up the dead hero of this story. A trail blazer that gets burned.
- * It is necessary to move with the times and take stock of necessary prerequisites for the green transition.
- * The coherency of policies needs to ensure that green transition in combination with trade ambitions doesn't hurt our competitiveness and open our market to cheaper products not produced at the same standards.



Mercosur

- * Agreed before EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork
- * This agreement, at its foundations, could create an unacceptable competition situation for parts of the EU farming community.
- * The European Green Deal makes this gap even wider.
- * If the European Union proceeds with the Green Deal without ensuring that our agriculture output and competitiveness are maintained, the basis of our certain trade arrangements is questioned.
- * The additional sustainability protocol proposed is for us unacceptable. We want to see clear enforceability measures to what it concerns standards of production and respect of environment.



Partner countries

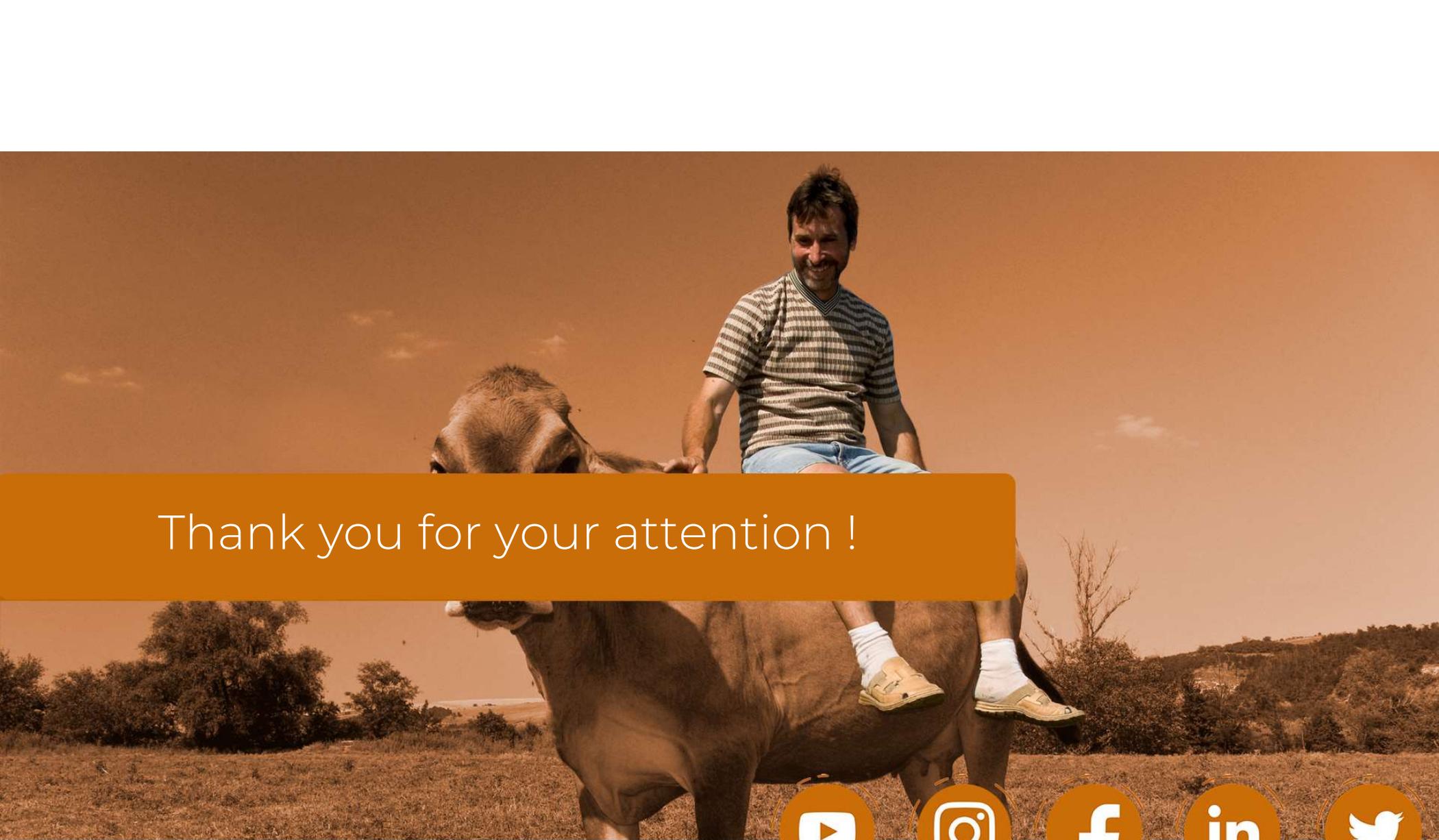
- * In proposing new EU Green Deal initiatives (as was the case for the past) the external dimension and impact on trading partners must be carefully studied.
- * Specific attention needs to be placed on developing countries with less advanced agricultural sectors or weaker regulatory frameworks, as they may struggle to meet these standards without significant investment in technology, infrastructure, and capacity building.
- * Importance of international cooperation, partnerships and common objectives to address global environmental challenges, including those related to agriculture and food production.



On the brighter side

- * If the coherence between EU Green Deal policies and out trade agenda is achieved, there can be positive developments for the EU agri sector as well.
- * As the EU implements stricter environmental and sustainability standards for agri-food products, there is likely to be a growing demand for more sustainable products within the EU and in international markets. This could lead to an increase in the export of such EU-products.
- * Opportunities for EU producers and businesses to establish themselves as leaders in green supply chain management and attract environmentally conscious consumers globally.
- * It could lead to the establishment of new trade relationships and enhanced cooperation based on shared sustainability driven values.





Thank you for your attention !



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