



COLLABORATION PLATFORM ON AGRICULTURE



Meeting between Mr. Wolfgang Bartscher, Director General of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI), and Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Robert Bonnie

Thursday, October 17, 2024 | 07:45 – 09:00 EST / 13:45 – 15:00 CET

Director General Bartscher and Under Secretary Bonnie met in the context of the Under Secretary's official visit to the European Commission, the purpose of which was to get a sense of the future direction of EU policy on promoting sustainable agriculture and the role Common Agricultural Policy would play in this context. Other topics covered included the EU Deforestation Regulation and the issue of sustainability of biofuel feedstocks.

The meeting took place under the umbrella of the EU-US Collaboration Platform on Agriculture (CPA), which since 2021 has served as a recognised format for senior official level and stakeholder discussions related to the common agricultural challenges on both sides of the Atlantic. Director-General Bartscher and Under Secretary Bonnie underscored the pertinence of the CPA platform, its usefulness in bringing in not only official administration points of view but also being open to stakeholders, who have emerged as enthusiastic supporters of the CPA. Both senior officials agreed that it would be advisable to continue the mutual engagement between DG AGRI and the USDA in the context of the CPA.

The discussion was attended by agricultural policy specialists from DG AGRI, USDA and the US Mission to the European Union. DG AGRI presented the main outcomes of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture, which should inform both the elaboration of the Vision for Agriculture and Food and the legislative proposal for the CAP post 2027 to be tabled in the second half of 2025, shortly after a Commission proposal for its next Multiannual Financial Framework. DG AGRI also briefed the US side on the state of the EU Deforestation Regulation implementation and the current European policy on biofuels.

The meeting led to declarations of support for continued cooperation under CPA framework.