



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate A – Strategy & Policy analysis
The Director

Brussels,
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MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AND HORIZONTAL MATTERS

on 7 November 2024 (afternoon session)

Chair: Director AGRI A

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The chairperson welcomed the members of the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on CAP Strategic Plans and Horizontal Matters. The chairperson presented the agenda of the meeting, which was approved by the group, without raising new AOB points.

For the first point in the morning (on a new approach to deliver on sustainability: benchmarking system) the meeting became a joint meeting and members of the CDG on Environment and Climate Change joined online. Colleagues of other Directions-Generals also joined the meeting (ENV, CLIMA, JRC, SANTE and MARE).

2. Nature of the meeting

Non-public.

3. List of points discussed

Point 1 on a new approach to deliver on sustainability: benchmarking system

See minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group on Environment and Climate change and on Cap Strategic Plans and Horizontal Matters from 7 November 2024 (morning session).

Point 2 on Land Market

The afternoon session was focused on the land market, starting with a presentation on the results of the RALUC project and followed by an exchange of views on a European land observatory. The Chair's introduction highlighted the need for a more proactive approach to land market issues, despite it being a national competence.

Ms Berien Elbersen, Senior Researcher from Wageningen University, presented the first preliminary results of a study on competition for land use and sustainable farming (RALUC project) which highlighted the increasing competition for land use and the challenges of preserving agricultural land in territories with different characteristics and dynamics

The discussion that followed highlighted concerns regarding the land takeover by energy, with several organizations (GEOPA, COGECA) expressing their worries about the increasing competition for land use. The report from Wageningen University highlighted the difficulties in determining whether certain areas are suitable for agriculture, citing studies that showed an increase in primary energy on agricultural land, but not necessarily indicating that it was good agricultural land.

The topic of generational renewal was also brought up during the discussion, with several participants agreeing on the need to support farmers in transitioning to new forms of land use. GEOPA, ECVC or RED mentioned the importance of keeping rural areas vibrant and defending small-scale farmers. Plant Based Food pointed out that the fear of the Green Deal taking away land is not a concern, as it is focused on making more effective use of the existing land.

Other issues relevant to the discussion included the data collection and analysis, with EURAF, ELO, AREPO, COGECA and COPA questioning the accuracy and completeness of the data. The need for a land observatory to provide more accurate data was also mentioned by several participants, including Ms. Berien Elbersen from Wageningen University. Ms Elbersen confirmed that the full study will be published in 2025 and invited all the participants to carefully read it once published.

Subsequently, an exchange of views took place on a European land observatory, with presentations from Mr Eliaz Moreau from ECVC and Mr Sebastian Perel from CEJA.

Several organizations expressed their views on the potential benefits and challenges of a land observatory, with some emphasizing the need to avoid creating new bureaucracy for farmers. Others, such as ELO and ECVC, called for a strategic dialogue on the land observatory, with suggestions for land banks, registers, and addressing land abandonment. RED highlighted the importance of family farming, rural development, and preserving farmland.

The Commission expressed interest in improving data on land prices and rent, while also acknowledging that there are still many gaps in the current data. The Commission welcomed the suggestions and confirmed that it will continue to work on this topic. Additionally, the Commission informed the participants that the European Parliament is considering funding a pilot project for the land observatory, which could help to advance the initiative.

Point 3 on improving the functioning of this Civil Dialogue Group

The third point on the agenda included an exchange of views on improving the functioning of the Civil Dialogue Group (CdG). The chair explained that this subject was brought as a follow up to the report of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of the EU agriculture, where it was mentioned that the CdGs are not promoting meaningful dialogue. The chair asked for simple and operational suggestions that could be easily implemented to improve the functioning of the group.

Most organizations agreed that to improve the efficiency of CDG meetings, sharing meeting dates in advance and setting up the agenda early with detailed timings would be beneficial. Members widely supported these suggestions to enhance the overall productivity and effectiveness of the meetings.

COPA/ COGECA suggested maintaining traditional meetings, in person and insisted on the inviting multiple farmers to participate to have the rural environment in contact with policy makers.

Other organizations (ECVC; EEB) expressed their willingness to have a more streamlined approach with fewer meetings and limited participant numbers (with balanced timing per organization).

CEJA suggested adding ice breakers activities and it was also suggested to include digital board/ break-out rooms in hybrid meetings to get more interactive meetings.

On the substance, COPA suggested, and other organizations said that the meetings should focused also on the implementation of the CAP and in-depth discussions on sectoral details.

There was overall support for having dedicated workshops with clear objectives and debates. IFOAM also raised the possibility to use the EU CAP NETWORK to capitalize common issues.

The chair confirmed that the Commission will follow up on these suggestions and announced indicative dates for future meetings: 25 June 2025 and 20 November 2025 (tbc). The Commission will send an email to participants requesting input on topics and agendas for future meetings.

Point 4 on AOB

An AOB was raised by COGECA on a risk management request submitted by the Romanian government. The Commission took note of the demand and engaged to reply after internal consultation.

4. Next meeting

The next meetings are indicatively planned on 25 June 2025 and 20 November 2025 (to be confirmed) for the CDG on CAP Strategic Plans and Horizontal Matters.

5. List of participants

Organizations that were present (see the enclosed list)

List of participants– Minutes

***CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AND
HORIZONTAL MATTERS
on 7 November 2024 (afternoon session)***

| ORGANISATIONS |
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| AEEU |
| AREFLH - Assemblée des Régions Européennes Fruitières Légumières et Horticoles |
| AREPO - Association des régions européennes des produits d'origine |
| BeeLife - Bee Life - European Beekeeping Organisation |
| Birdlife |
| CEETAR - Confédération Européenne des Entrepreneurs de Travaux Techniques Agricoles |
| CEFIC |
| CEFS |
| CEJA - Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs / European Council of Young Farmers |
| CELCAA - European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and AGRI-Food Trade |
| CEPF - Confederation of European Forest Owners |
| CEPM - European Confederation of Maize Producers |
| COGECA - European agri-cooperatives / General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives of the European Union |
| COPA - "European farmers / Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations of the European Union |
| EAPF - European Alliance for Plant-based Foods |
| ECVC - European Coordination Via Campesina |
| EEB - European Environmental Bureau |
| EFA - Eurogroup for Animals |
| EFFAT |
| EFOW - European Federation of Origin Wines |
| ELARD - European Leader Association for Rural Development |
| ELO |
| EPHA - European Public Health Alliance |
| ERCA - European Rural Community Alliance |
| EURAF - European Agroforestry Federation |
| EUROCOMMERCE |
| EUROMONTANA |
| FoE - Friends of the Earth |
| FoodDrinkEurope |
| GEOPA-COPA |

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| Greenpeace European Union |
| IFA |
| IFOAM - International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Regional Group |
| ORIGINEU - Organisation pour un réseau international d'indications géographiques |
| Rurality, Environment, Development |
| SlowFood |

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| Observers |
| Committee of the Region |
| European economic and social Committee |
| <u>Ad Hoc Expert</u> |
| B. Elbersen - Wageningen, The Netherlands |
| T. Ceccarelli - Wageningen, The Netherlands |