

Civil Dialogue Group - International aspects of agriculture (CDG IAA)

Presentation of Adam NOWAK (CEJA Vice-President)

06 May 2022 – 11:15

8/10 minutes max.

“Global food security - International aspects of the Food security Communication and follow up”

Introduction:

- Adam’s introduction
 - Speak on behalf of CEJA, Young farmers from all over the EU
 - Knowing the context, international aspects of agriculture are obviously very crucial, whether it is for farmers, consumers, or citizens.
 - I thank you for the opportunity to share our views. I will develop 3 points.
1. **Young farmers welcome the communication** on “*Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems*”
- We are aware of
 - The direct impact on the production and exports from Ukraine
 - Impact on the viability of EU farms, given the well-known context of:
 - Prices explosion (fertilizers, energy, feed)
 - Availability of inputs / feed
 - The context was already difficult and inflationary. The war in Ukraine only made things worse
 - It is therefore not alarmist to talk about food security, the subject that brings us together today
 - I take the opportunity to applaud all efforts for humanitarian support, which responds to a very short-term – and local – food security issue

Now going back to global food security and measures from the EU.

2. **The measures are well targeted, but cannot address problems that are more structural**

- We see positive elements which will allow for treasury relief.
 - The use of the crisis reserve under Article 219 CMO – with 500 million euros transferred to Member States. (*Even if it cannot be enough*)
 - The establishment of a Temporary Crisis Framework (TCF) for state aid
 - Increased levels of advances of CAP direct payments.
 - Additional flexibility in regulatory requirements. It will help maintain supply of essential inputs to agricultural production
- Long-term resilience is also essential, especially for us, young farmers, the future of the EU’s agriculture! This is why we support:
 - Actions aiming to decrease the dependency from certain inputs by diversifying supply
 - Development of EU protein production in a progressive and coherent way
 - boosting research, innovation,
- However, the challenges are hard, especially for young farmers. Structural challenges were already there and remain.

- Putting enabling instruments in the hands of all farmers need to be implemented without any further delay if the EU ambitions to reach all its sustainability objectives while preserving our most essential resources.
- Global food security relies on farmers: the exponential decline in the number of farmers should alert us to our ability to meet the challenge of nourishing the population
- Education plays an important role. The next generation of young farmers need to be educated to face the existing and forthcoming challenges of the sector.
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Finally, let's reaffirm that:

3. Food security and sustainability have to work hand in hand

- We all know that with these two objectives, two timing constraints are faced.
 - **Sustainability is long-term**, with challenges already present now
 - **Food security is a short term and long-term challenge**
- The right balance needs to be found in order to combine these two objectives.