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JOINT STATEMENT

European young farmers protest for dignified living and working conditions

As EU agriculture is faced with a structural socio-economic and vocational crisis, young farmers from all over Europe have been taking to the streets to ask for dignified living and working conditions. Protests currently unfolding in many Member States are the legitimate expression of long-term frustration and the feeling of not being heard. CEJA and its Member Organisations stand in solidarity with all European young farmers, warning against attempts to politicise and instrumentalise their claims and calling to maintain peaceful and constructive actions.

Low prices, increased regulatory and administrative complexity, unfair trading practices, and higher risks have reemphasised the vocational crisis in EU agriculture. With 6,5% of farmers below the age of 35, the new generations in farming feel like they cannot do it all, meeting the high expectations of policymakers and society while maintaining their livelihoods.

Young farmers stay committed to sustainability but feel like they have been hit with targets without any practical means to reach them. They feel they must compromise their economic viability and social well-being to reach higher goals, fearing they will never be fairly acknowledged. The low level of coherence between public authorities, banking institutions and value chain operators, but also between EU internal and trade policies, has left young farmers alone with the execution of our collective ambitions. We need to solve this collectively.

CEJA calls on decision-makers to hear the despair of young farmers and to put forward a wider strategy for generational renewal in agriculture, tackling the issues of the sector's attractiveness and enabling farms to perform both on the economic and environmental fronts. Young farmers are ready to play their part in establishing a constructive dialogue, aiming to find long-term solutions over short-term political gains. For this to happen, the priority must be to finalise positive pending initiatives that can create added value on the farm and stay away from partisan discussions.

Urgent and difficult conversations are needed to enable young people to set up in the sector, earn a decent income, access their working tools (land, finance, knowledge) and benefit from a fairer repartition in the value chains. All governance levels, from local to the EU, must strive to give young farmers the living and working conditions they deserve.



Peter Meedendorp
CEJA President



EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG FARMERS
CONSEIL EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS
EUROPÄISCHER RAT DER JUNGLANDWIRTE



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En grönare framtid!
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