



Brussels, 4th June 2025

Subject: Youth policy dialogue: Demands from European rural and agricultural youth organisations for generational renewal

Dear Commissioner Hansen,

As youth farming and rural and workers representatives from the EU, we had the pleasure of being invited by the European Commission to the second youth policy dialogue and engage directly with you, Commissioner, and your Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development on the central issue of generational renewal.

We are all passionate and dedicated to agriculture, food and rural life and share the pressing need to enable more young farmers to enter and stay in agriculture, ensure that young workers in the sector also enjoy fair and sustainable working conditions and worthy wages, and pivoting a transition to a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable food system and organic and agroecological farming. For these ends, education and training are key for us. More courses should be dedicated in particular to agroecology and organic farming. In addition, young people not only need to work, but also to live, thrive and actively shape their communities in rural areas. EU initiatives like LEADER and CLLD play a crucial role in fostering local engagement, supporting youth-led projects, and building vibrant, inclusive rural societies. We emphasise the importance of creating holistic opportunities for young people in rural areas and ensure that policies support not just economic activities, but also cultural, social, and civic participation.

During our exchanges, we managed to find a common ground on two key issues that have been identified as contentious for generational renewal during the last youth policy dialogue in December 2024: the difficult and unfair access to land, and the precarious financial situation faced by many farmers and agricultural workers, particularly young farmers and new entrants. **As rural and agricultural youth in Europe, we call on the Commission to make the guarantee of fair prices—above production costs, including fair incomes for farmers and agricultural workers, as well as their social security — and the regulation of land a central part of its strategy on generational renewal.**

To put such these objectives into action, we demand as first actions to:

- Include “purchasing below production costs from farmers and other actors in the food chain” and “selling at a loss” in the prohibited list of UTP practices through a targeted amendment,
- Carefully consider the impact that FTAs have on farmers' incomes and thereby reinforcing the problems with generational renewal and act accordingly
- Regulate land markets through the implementation of an effective land observatory and public regulatory bodies on land,
- Establish investment support mechanisms, whether through public programs or loan guarantees, that are essential to overcome the financing difficulties encountered by new or future farmers,
- Targeted support for young people, women, migrant people, gender and sexual diversities in policies promoting access to land, fair prices, decent incomes and investment.

The Commission invited us to actively contribute to the policy discussion at EU level. We appreciate the invitation and value the dialogue with the Commission and the importance given to the key issue of generational renewal. We now urge the Commission not to fall into the trap of technofixes, deregulation or fake solutions for generational renewal and ask our priorities and demands to be heard and addressed. As youth, we are the ones facing the obstacles hindering generational renewal in our daily work and life. **We call for a sustained and qualitative dialogue between youth agricultural and rural representatives and policymakers to ensure that our lived experiences, perspectives, and solutions are fully reflected in the EU's strategy for generational renewal.** We remain ready and committed to contribute, and we invite the Commission to continue working with us closely and regularly as we build the future of farming and rural life together.

Yours sincerely,

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