

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability **B.3** – **Social Sustainability**

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Subject: Follow-up of the 2nd Youth Policy Dialogue – Joint Letter on Generational Renewal in Agriculture – reply to your letter

Dear Ms Wolff,

Thank you for your letter to Commissioner Hansen on generational renewal, an issue at the top of Commissioner's priorities. He asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development appreciated your active participation and contribution during the two Youth Policy Dialogues held on the matter, and we value your dedication in following and supporting the topics discussed.

During the exchanges on generational renewal, and in your letter, you share your perspective on the issues that affect those young farmers wanting to start or expand a farm, in particular the difficulty of having access to land and credit. You also stress the importance of fair prices and adequate income, work-life balance, inclusive rural development and a transition to agroecological and organic farming, supported by education and training. It is necessary to guarantee fair working conditions and decent wages for young agricultural workers, which will help us transition to a more sustainable food system.

We take note of your concerns and demands, including on banning unfair trading practices such as purchasing below production costs, regulating land markets, assessing the impact of trade agreements, and providing targeted financial and policy support for young people, women, migrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

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I assure you the Commission is committed to continuing to work on the generational renewal strategy, drawing on your perspectives and experiences.

Furthermore, as announced in its Vision for agriculture and food, the European Commission is setting up an EU Land Observatory to monitor access to land, with a focus on land prices and land concentration. In addition, the European Investment Bank announced a financial package of EUR 3 billion in favour of the EU farming community, especially young farmers and women.

All these actions aim to secure a future for young farmers and ensure that agriculture remains both a reliable source of income and a guarantor of food security. Involvement at all levels, European, national, and local, is necessary.

I would like to thank you again for your commitment to the issue of generational renewal. Please extend our gratefulness to those subscribing your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Maria GAFO GOMEZ-ZAMALLOA

Head of Unit