



Council of the
European Union

168403/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 09/01/24

Brussels, 9 January 2024
(OR. en)

5145/24

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Special Committee on Agriculture/Council
Subject:	Strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture in the EU

With a view to the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 23 January 2024, delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency note on the Commission's strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture in the EU.

Note from the Presidency on the
Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU

On 13 September 2023, during her **State of the Union address**, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced the launch of a "Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the European Union" in order to depolarise the debates on the green transition. The aim should be to ensure that the green transition takes place in a fair, intelligent and inclusive manner.

Farmers are subject to a number of constraints whose impact is growing, such as the Russian aggression against Ukraine, climate change and requirements arising from new EU legislation. In this context of crises, it is vital to ensure food security, to increase resilience and to make EU farming more sustainable.

At the **EU Agri-Food Days conference** on 6 December 2023, President von der Leyen confirmed that this strategic dialogue would start in January 2024. She called to overcome polarisation on issues such as the reduction of pesticides and fertilisers, arguing that it was possible to reconcile competitiveness and the preservation of nature.

The Commission's ambition is to bring all the players in the food chain to the table. Not only producers and processors, but also other stakeholders, including civil society. This shows the Commission's willingness to tackle the issue not only from the angle of agriculture, but also from that of food in general.

Four **thematic questions** were already put forward by President Ursula von der Leyen at the EU Agri-Food Days:

1. How can we give our farmers, and the rural communities they live in, a better perspective, including a fair standard of living?
2. How can we support agriculture within the boundaries of our planet and its ecosystem?
3. How can we make better use of the immense opportunities offered by knowledge and technological innovation?
4. How can we promote a bright and thriving future for Europe's food system in a competitive world?

In view of the above, and to enable the Council to prepare for this dialogue, the Presidency proposes the following questions for an initial exchange of views:

1. **What are the conditions needed to enable EU farmers to continue to supply food and raw materials and to generate a decent income, in a sustainable manner?**
 2. **In the context of this strategic dialogue, which aims to depolarise the debate on agricultural issues, which themes would you like to highlight?**
 3. **What results do you expect from this strategic dialogue?**
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