



Brussels, 23 March 2026
(OR. en)

7607/26

AGRI 202
DEVGEN 54
ENV 267
ONU 16
POLCOM 110

'A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Updated EU Guidelines for G20 Agriculture discussions

As agreed at its meeting on 23 March 2026, the Special Committee on Agriculture invites the Council to approve the annexed guidelines as an “A” item at one of its forthcoming meetings.

Updated EU Guidelines for G20 Agriculture discussions

This note sets out the priorities for the EU and its Member States, and is intended only for internal use by EU & Member States delegations.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2026, the United States of America holds the rotating G20 Presidency. The USA has indicated that it will not organise a dedicated G20 Agriculture Working Group. Topics related to agriculture and food security could potentially be discussed under the umbrella of trade, innovation and/or foreign ministers' tracks. It is unlikely that a G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting will take place. The below is a brief outline of priorities to guide EU engagement on agriculture topics, should discussions on these arise:

- **Ensure continuity and synergies with past G20 practice and initiatives**, in the spirit of enhancing cooperation with the host and other G20 members, and mindful of the long-term strategic importance of agriculture and food security;
- support **international exchanges on agri-food policy, promoting** the EU's broader policy objectives, in line with the Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food;
- reinforce the **resilience of global food value chains** against systemic shocks and long-term challenges, incl. those arising from climate change, land degradation, deforestation, water scarcity and biodiversity loss;
- maintain support for the **transition to sustainable agricultural practices**, and commitment to the **rules-based multilateral trading system**, as key pillars of long-term global food security;

- reaffirm **established commitments**, particularly on Sustainable Development Goals and climate change, continued support for the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), efforts to tackle food loss and waste, and antimicrobial resistance.

Previous EU Guidelines¹ remain broadly relevant and cover most areas of concern, applying also *mutatis mutandis* to discussions at the G7 forum. Nonetheless, we provide the following consolidated synthesis, which may serve as the basis for the participation of the EU and its Member States in G20 negotiations where appropriate and in view of topics which will be presented for discussion.

II. GUIDELINES FOR THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

1. Encourage **multilateral cooperation among G20 members** to address issues of shared, global concern in matters of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and support prior consensus positions and international commitments in these areas, while taking challenging geopolitical dynamics into account and ensuring coherence across G20 work streams.
2. In particular, **preserve G20 engagement** on sustainability in all its three dimensions (economic, social, environmental), and maintain awareness of food loss & waste and the management of biodiversity and natural resources, as well as social aspects such as the inclusion of women and youth, and generational renewal in agriculture.

¹ “Updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting, 18 September 2025, Cape Town, South Africa” doc. 6546/25

3. In the aftermath of the recent systemic shocks, reinforce the **resilience** of global agriculture and food systems supply chains, also taking into account the UN's Agenda 2030 and the international aspects of the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food.
4. Support efforts for **responsible agricultural investments**, ensuring they are implemented in a way that is consistent with internationally adopted guidelines², and promote the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders to upgrading agricultural capacity in a sustainable manner, incl. for family farming and smallholders.
5. Continue to promote **research and innovation aiming at increased sustainability**, including information and communication technologies in agriculture. In this context, however, be mindful of the sensitive nature of 'technology transfers' and insist that any such exchanges must be on a voluntary basis and in line with applicable international law and intellectual property rights.
6. In order to facilitate the transparency of agricultural markets, secure the continued operation and funding of relevant G20 initiatives, in particular the **Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)**.
7. Emphasize the importance of the **multilateral rules-based system** for agri-food trade. In the interest of progressively aligning international standards with the EU's policy objectives, strive to mainstream the prioritisation of sustainability in agriculture and agri-food trade policy.

² In particular, the CFS-RAI and CFS-VGGT (*Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*).

8. Where appropriate, strengthen coherence with relevant works of **international organisations** and fora such as the G7, WTO, FAO, CFS and OECD, and encourage co-operation for agriculture and food systems capacity building in developing regions. In this context, further support the integration of the **African Union** as a supranational body having recently joined the G20, and the participation of all G20 members.
-