

# Copa and Cogeca mobilisation – 18.12.25

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Farming at a tipping point –  
No more smoke and mirrors!

copa\*cogeca  
european farmers      european agri-cooperatives



ENOUGH SMOKE & MIRRORS!  
EU AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY ARE AT RISK!

**Agriculture has always been at the heart of the European project, a cornerstone of our economy, our security, and our way of life.** Every day, Europe's farmers and agricultural cooperatives provide safe, high-quality, and nutritious food, feed, fuel, and fibre to citizens across the continent and beyond. In a world marked by geopolitical instability, conflict, and growing uncertainty, Europe's farming community stands as a stabilising force — a strategic asset for peace, resilience, and sustainability.

**Yet, European farmers and agri-cooperatives are under immense pressure.**

Soaring fertilizers prices for arable crops and limited availability, record-high energy costs, concentrated retail power, legal uncertainty, ever more complex regulations, and low income make it increasingly difficult to invest, compete, or plan ahead. Meanwhile, current EU trade policy is deepening these challenges by undermining EU standards, eroding Europe's capacity to produce sustainably and using agriculture as a bargaining chip.

This unbearable pressure is putting the future of entire sectors at risk, blocking essential investments (i.e. permitting), generational renewal, and leading to ever-increasing dependence on imports. These weaknesses play into an increasingly aggressive geopolitical landscape. **If Europe fails to act now, it risks losing one of its greatest strategic assets: the ability to feed itself and the world.**

Today, we see a paradox emerging in Europe: the European Commission speaks of agriculture and its strategic importance, yet its words are not followed by action. One year into Ursula von der Leyen's second mandate, the illusion of a renewed contract of trust is fading fast in light of the actions and policies pursued by this Commission.

The Commission presents a strategic vision and a young farmers' strategy — yet it chooses to cut budgets and abandon the Common Agriculture Policy. It claims to support agriculture, yet it pushes for trade deals such as Mercosur, which would have devastating consequences. It promises simplification to boost competitiveness yet seeks to enforce directives that will dramatically increase legal uncertainty (as IED or Habitats Directive) and production costs (as CBAM for fertilizers) and, eventually even blocking investments in more sustainable production.

**EU farming is at a tipping point. We can no longer settle for rhetoric — we need results and tangible solutions for our farms and agri-cooperatives.** For us, the situation is clear: today's challenges demand real answers on **three fundamental pillars of European competence.**

Everything else is just smoke and mirrors.

**1. A strong, common and well-funded CAP Post-2027 together with an MFF that provides solutions and supports the competitiveness and growth of farmers and agri-cooperatives by:**

- Respecting the **CAP's individuality and its two-pillar** structure.
- Securing a **dedicated, inflation-proof budget** in line with Treaty provisions.
- Maintaining the **Commonality of the CAP** ensuring the EU single market and investment certainty for farmers and agri-cooperatives
- Guaranteeing a **CAP that remains a driver of food security, competitiveness, fair income,** and reasonable prices for consumers whilst securing vibrant rural areas.

The marginal adjustments to the MFF and CAP presented by President von der Leyen to the European Parliament fall far short of what is needed to safeguard farmers' livelihoods and EU food security. They appear to be an attempt to change things without changing anything from the 16th July proposal.

The same applies to fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the Common Fisheries Policy which will equally face a critical phase following the cuts foreseen in the new MFF proposal.

## 2. Fair and transparent trade that effectively safeguards our production standards and most sensitive sectors while helping improve competitiveness

We need to:

- Elevate the **importance of agriculture in trade negotiations** in consideration of its strategic importance.
- **Stop the Mercosur ratification process. The Agreement, as it stands, remains unacceptable for EU's farmers and agri-cooperatives**, lacking guarantees on reciprocity of standards of production and truly effective safeguards.
- Ensure that **imports from Ukraine** remain at levels that the EU market can absorb **without destabilising** its producers.
- Pursue a **0x0 tariff regime with the United States** for key agricultural products, granting EU producers equal treatment to their American counterparts.
- Other trade **agreements such as the Association Agreement between the EU and Morocco that have significant consequences** on key agriculture sectors must also be revised to include safeguards and reciprocity insurance.

## 3. Real simplification, better regulation and legal certainty agenda for farmers and agri-cooperatives by:

- **Postponing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** for fertilisers scheduled for 1 January 2026; the inclusion of fertilisers is unaffordable for EU agriculture as the EU has never been self-sufficient in fertiliser production and remains structurally dependent on imports.
- Tabling an **ambitious Environment Omnibus to deliver real change on the ground in our farms**, aiming for better regulation, deblocking sustainable investments, and permitting with targeted amendments to the Industrial Emissions Directive, Nitrates/Habitats/ Water Framework Directives together with reopening the Nature Restoration Law to ensure realistic targets, voluntary measures, adequate financing. The Omnibus process needs to continue!
- Propose an **ambitious Food and Feed Omnibus** without delay to accelerate the approval and certification of new plant protection products (PPPs), provided they are safe, effective and affordable, and implement a **"no ban without alternatives"** principle.
- **Postpone the entry into application of the EUDR to 30 December 2026 for all** operators and traders and present a new, separate proposal by April 2026, introducing **more effective and coherent simplification measures**, ensuring that operators, traders, and Member States have sufficient time to adapt.

**Agricultural policy is one of the strongest symbols of European integration.** If agriculture is struggling today, then it is the very viability of the European project that is at stake.

European farmers and agri-cooperatives are committed Europeans, and we will do everything possible to prevent the European Union from making a strategic mistake that could prove extremely costly in the short, medium, and long term.

**Food security is a prerequisite for Europe's security, and without Food security, the European project itself is at risk.**