

Youth Declaration on the Inclusion of Young Voices in EU Agricultural Policymaking

09.01.2025, Brussels.

We, the undersigned youth organization that are involved in agriculture, food, rural areas, and the environment, are convinced that only by strong involvement among all stakeholders, including youth, can we achieve the common vision of a resilient, innovative, and sustainable European farm and food system for all.

EU agriculture is ageing, and generational renewal poses key challenges: the average farmer in Europe is 57 years old¹, and only 6.5% of farmers were under the age of 35 in 2020². At the same time, Europe loses 1,000 farms each day³. Today, young farmers and entrepreneurs encounter many challenges along their path such as access to land, and lack of financial and technical resources and opportunities for career development, in addition to general challenges in agriculture, like fair remuneration and decent working conditions.

To keep developing the food and farming sector, it is essential to attract and support younger generations and ensure representation of their perspectives in policymaking. Thus, the empowerment of the voice of youth by their meaningful, participatory, and long-term inclusion (which may be facilitated by financial support) in the policymaking process is vital to ensure the long-term sustainability of the sector.

We warmly welcome the Commissions' and Christophe Hansens' efforts to recognize young farmers and entrepreneurs as well as generational renewal as a fundamental tenant of the upcoming vision of European food and farming. The Youth Policy Exchange with Commissioner Hansen, bringing young stakeholders to the table, is an essential first step towards what we need: a coherent, co-created, and purposeful institutionalisation for the empowerment of youth voices in EU policymaking.

We therefore declare our commitment to contributing to this effort and delivering relevant input. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration among us as stakeholders and with EU policymakers.

Signatory Organizations (listed alphabetically):

1. Agroecology Europe Youth Network
2. European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) - Youth Community
3. European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)
4. European Federation of Food Science and Technology (EFFoST) – Young EFFoST
5. European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT) – Youth Committee
6. International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS)
7. Organics Europe Youth Network (IFOAM)
8. Slow Food Youth Network
9. Young Friends of the Earth

¹ [Event report: Exchange on advancing young and historical underserved farming and addressing intergenerational farm issues](#)

² EU Agricultural Outlook Report 2023-35: agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/agricultural-outlook-2023-report_en_0.pdf

³ ['Europe loses 1,000 farms per day' - new agriculture commissioner](#)