

Draft EPP Resolution Political Assembly Munich 4-5 May 2023

“European Farmers' Deal EPP Vision for Agriculture in Europe”

1 *The EPP is and will continue to be the voice and defender of European farmers and our rural*
2 *communities. We see agriculture as a **strategic sector**, delivering **food security** in Europe and*
3 *beyond. The COVID-19 pandemic and the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia reminded EU*
4 *citizens that we cannot take food for granted. We stand for multifunctional agriculture,*
5 *supported by our Common Agricultural Policy and centred primarily on family farms across*
6 *Europe that enables farmers to do what they do best: produce the excellent products that we*
7 *are famous for. Our party stands for a sustainable, future-orientated, innovative and*
8 *competitive sector that produces safe, high-quality food in sufficient quantities, while*
9 *responding to societal concerns about the environment, climate change and animal welfare.*

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11 ➤ Those elected in 2024 will decide the next **CAP** for the period after 2027. We defend
12 the CAP. We will evaluate the current policy and seek to improve it where necessary
13 in the interest of farmers and society. We will pay close attention to measures
14 supporting **young farmers** as they are the key to maintaining agricultural activity,
15 which ensures both food security and vibrant rural communities. Boosting measures
16 to support **women** in agriculture is also central to this as well as securing generational
17 renewal and preventing land abandonment. In line with the EU's long-term vision on
18 rural areas we support rural communities to become inclusive, resilient and well
19 connected areas that provide secure, high quality products and services for the wider
20 society.
- 21 ➤ We will, across the EU Institutions, insist on a strong budget for the CAP, which takes
22 inflation into account. We know that a strong CAP, equipped with the necessary
23 budget, is a key driver in ensuring the sustainability of European agriculture from the
24 economic, environmental and social perspectives.
- 25 ➤ We understand that farmers would gladly use less **inputs** such as pesticides, fertilisers
26 and antibiotics if they could and we believe that the CAP, through its eco-schemes,
27 agri-environmental programmes and farm advisory system, should support them in
28 this. We fully support the objective of reducing the use of such inputs in agriculture as
29 it is a win for the environment, consumers and farmers alike. However, now is not the
30 time to endanger food security in Europe. Therefore, we reject the proposal on the
31 **Sustainable Use of Pesticides** as the reduction targets chosen are simply not feasible
32 and the proposal does not offer farmers viable alternatives.
- 33 ➤ Equally, we reject the proposed **Nature Restoration Law**. In too many regions or
34 Member States the implementation of existing nature legislation has led to a
35 bureaucratic nightmare and planning deadlock, endangering food security, renewable
36 energy production, crucial infrastructure etc. The Commission should urgently help
37 Member States break this deadlock first. Furthermore, its retroactive application is a
38 direct assault on private property rights. And we firmly reject its aim of taking 10% of

39 farmland out of production, as this would be irresponsible in the current context!
40 Moreover, we believe that the existing derogations to the CAP conditionality regime
41 should be extended so as to allow more land to be used for productive purposes.

- 42 ➤ We believe that **research and innovation** offer better pathways towards a more
43 sustainable and resilient agricultural sector. We see, for example, great potential in
44 the use of **New Breeding Techniques** to develop more resistant plants that require
45 less pesticides, less fertiliser and less water. We demand a new legislative framework
46 to ensure that this innovative technology can be used in the EU and this would also
47 stimulate research, investment and jobs. We also see great potential for farmers to
48 diversify their income and deliver environmental benefits through voluntary, market-
49 based **carbon farming** initiatives. We commit to ensuring that such schemes are
50 supported with as little red-tape for farmers as possible.
- 51 ➤ We strongly support traditional agro-pastoral farming and other outdoor livestock
52 systems, recognising their role in biodiversity conservation and in maintaining
53 agricultural activity across Europe. This is why we insist on the urgent need to ensure
54 that farming and tourism remain possible in these areas in light of the challenges
55 posed by a growing population of **large carnivores**. It is time for a balanced approach.
- 56 ➤ EU farmers delivered for us during the COVID pandemic and are delivering for us again
57 amid the shock to the global food system triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
58 Yet farmers are still not receiving a **fair share** from the value chain. We will intensify
59 our efforts to ensure that farmers are able to earn a decent income, building on the
60 work we have done in the CAP and in adopting a directive aimed at rooting out unfair
61 trading practices in the food supply chain.