

**EURAGRI workshop**

25 September 2020, 10.00 – 17.00

KoWi Rue du Trône 98, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

**The transition of the European society in the context of the European Green Deal –
The role of the agro-food and bioeconomy sector**

On 11 December 2019 Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the EU COM announced as one important pillar of her presidency agenda for Europe “A European Green Deal”.

The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. Actions are taken to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and stop climate change, revert biodiversity loss and cut pollution. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.

The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy with the agro-food and bio-economy sector as a central part.

The workshop deals with those headlines put forward in the EU COM communication on the European Green Deal (https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf) that are concerning directly the agro-food and bio-economy sector which has an important role to play in providing solutions.

Those are:

- 1. Increasing the EU's climate ambition for 2030 and 2050*
- 2. From 'Farm to Fork': designing a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system*
- 3. A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment*
- 4. Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies*

We intend to discuss these in the context of a further, overarching headline:

Mobilising research and fostering innovation.

If the agro-food and bio-economy sectors are to meet the demands outlined in the ‘European Green Deal’ significant progress will need to be made.

These demands are not new and substantial funds have been directed to investigate the related issues. However, it is time to reflect on:

- What has been achieved so far?
- Is the agro-food and bio-economy research delivering viable solutions under the new circumstances?
- Which domains are to be pursued with new effort or other directions?



Agenda for the day (preliminary):

10.00-10.30 **Arrival and coffee**

10.30 -11.00 **Welcome** by Gerry Boyle, President of EURAGRI

Introduction to workshop by Uno Svedin, EURAGRI member of board

Commentary Gijs Schildhuis, DG-agri

11.00-12.00 **I. Increasing the EU's climate ambition – the role of research and innovation**

Agriculture is highly exposed to climate change, as farming activities directly depend on climatic conditions. Agriculture also contributes substantially to global climate change. The sector accounts for roughly a fifth of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions when considering the full life cycle of production and consumption including agriculture's role in deforestation.

Introduction: Gottlieb Basch, Professor MED, University Evora

Moderator: Uno Svedin, Stockholm Resilience Center

12.00-13.00 **II. Designing a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system – the role of research and innovation**

Concepts have been provided to reduce emissions and increase biodiversity through shifting diets as well as the reduction of food loss and waste. They all require full integration of the food security and livelihoods agenda with the issues concerning the climate and environmental community and consumption patterns.

Introduction: Gianluca Brunori, Professor, University of Pisa

Moderator: tbc.

13.00-14.00 **Lunch**

14.00-15.00 **III. Realizing a toxic-free environment – the role of research and innovation**

Agro-food pollution comprises damage, contamination and degradation of environment and ecosystem, and induce health hazards due to the byproducts of farming practices and form of consumption patterns. There is a need for reliable information about our environment, composition and properties of a variety of agricultural pollutants. In addition, the process to mobilize action to understand these pollution hazards has to be developed.



Introduction: Christian Huyghe; Vice-director, INRAE

Moderator: Gerry Boyle, Director Teagasc

15.00-15.15 **Coffee**

15.15-16.00 **IV. Mainstreaming sustainability in all EU policies – the role of research and innovation**

Are there policies (CAP, national, regional and local) in place that lead to transformation of the sector, generally and in specific situations, and do they result in the desired development outcomes? Are there any other requirements to facilitate the needed transformations?

Introduction: Elisabeth Claverie de Saint Martin, Vice-CEO, CIRAD

Peter Wehrheim, DG Research and Innovation

Moderator: Hartmut Stalb, Ministry for Food and Agriculture, Germany

16.00-16.30 **Rounding up discussions about the topics of the day and summary**

16.30 **End of the workshop**