

## CEMA – European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association

### CEMA reaction to the Farm to Fork & Biodiversity Strategies

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CEMA is the association representing the European agricultural machinery industry. With 11 national member associations, the CEMA network represents both large multinational companies and numerous European SMEs active in this sector. CEMA comprises about 7,000 manufacturers, producing more than 450 different types of machines with an annual turnover of about EUR 40 billion (EU28 - 2016) and 150,000 direct employees. CEMA companies produce a large range of machines that cover any activity in the field from seeding to harvesting as well as equipment for livestock management.

CEMA stresses the impact of the proposed Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies on the complex and integrated agri-food sector, including the agricultural equipment industry. Highly ambitious targets have been put forward by the European Commission to contribute to the objectives of the EU Green Deal. These ambitions must now be matched by specific supportive actions and resources, based on comprehensive impact assessments and scientific progress while leaving no stakeholder behind. Advanced machinery and solutions are key to support sustainable farming and help farmers from farms of all sizes and all types to reach a high-level of environmental protection and productive agriculture. Our industry develops precision agriculture technologies that enable farmers to significantly reduce the impact of inputs while optimizing their farming practices. Our industry creates the digital solutions to harness the potential of data, automation, robotization, autonomous vehicles, digital connectivity and artificial intelligence.

The Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies include **unprecedented targets** to reduce inputs (pesticides / fertilizers / nutrients) used in European farming practices while promoting specific farming approaches with lower yields (organic farming) and further conservation measures. These targets – especially when combined – will have significant economic, social and environmental impacts, affecting European food security as well as farming competitiveness and income. The agri-food chain proved its resilience through the Covid-19 crisis, but the supply of safe, nutritious and affordable foodstuffs to EU consumers should not be taken for granted.

In this view and considering the exceptional circumstances the economy is facing CEMA calls on the EU Institutions to consider to:

- **perform specific and thorough impact assessments** to measure the combined environmental, social and economic likely consequences of the proposed new environmental targets and associated legislation across the European agri-food sector. Targets must be realistic, coherent, achievable, and measurable against a sound baseline, taking into consideration that climatic conditions, diseases and pest pressure will fluctuate. Data gaps – notably on the usage of intrants – must be resolved. We call on the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to base their decisions on the principles of better legislation, including specific and thorough impact assessments.
- introduce **transition schemes** carefully designed and financially supported with adequate means considering the very significant economic impact these unprecedented targets may have on EU farmers. Dedicated measures should also be planned to facilitate the access to

agronomic advice services. Benchmarks should be established to enable for readjustments as required.

Furthermore CEMA continues to call on the European Institutions to **prioritize the uptake of precision agriculture and digital farming technologies** as part of the solution to achieve a more sustainable agriculture in Europe. Further development of efficient organic farming will require a significant increase in the use of **mechanical and electric weeding technologies** to replace the crop protection techniques currently in use with conventional farming. A significant uptake in **agricultural robots** may also be required to compensate for lower yields. Therefore, in order to reach the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategy goals, EU farmers will need to have enough **investment capacity** through a strong CAP budget and reach a new level of professional **skills**.

To this end CEMA calls for:

- A **coordinated renewal scheme for agricultural machineries across the EU** may be needed in order to boost private and business demand, support sustainable economic recovery across the board as well as accelerate the renewal of the EU fleet. Effective fleet renewal schemes will further enhance environmental benefits towards EU climate ambitions and resource-efficiency targets. Incentives should be designed on both national and EU level and enhanced by premiums which will take into account sustainable objectives in concert with the economic impact.

CEMA stands ready to further contribute as a core stakeholder of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies which, along with many other initiatives announced by the European Commission, are a crucial part of the European Green Deal transition.

### ABOUT CEMA

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