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European
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Bureau

Outcomes of the strategic dialogue on GHG emissions' reduction

Technical workshop 1

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Outline

The EEB

The dialogue: when, how, why?

Diving into the report

Focus on the recommendations relating to GHG emissions reductions



The EEB

The EEB is **Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations** – and the only one to work on such a broad range of issues.

Our over 180 members from 41 countries have more than 30 million individual supporters.

We have 50 years of EU environmental policy expertise.

Our vision

A better future where people and nature thrive together.

Our mission

We advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.



The dialogue: why, how, when?

At the initiative and request of the President of the European Commission (announcement in September 2023): ‘more dialogue, less polarization’

29 members- 1 chair – Technical support (DG AGRI)

Launched in January 2024: 7 Plenary, 4 working groups, many break out/task force, scientific symposium

Consensus found in last Plenary (29 August)



The report

The report is divided in **three sections and an executive summary**

- **Part A** outlines the **vision of the Strategic Dialogue** regarding the future of the food and agriculture systems in Europe
- **Part B** presents **ten guiding political principles** that should guide politicians in the design of a sustainable transition of the food and farming sector.
- **Part C** is the **core of the Strategic Dialogue**. It presents a large set of policy recommendations that EU Institutions **must follow in order to transition food and farming systems** away from current lock-in.



The report and its recommendations on GHG emissions reduction

- Focus on part C of the report:
 - Dedicated session on reducing GHG emissions in agriculture and food systems but it is a package and goes hand in hand with other recommendations :
 - Call for a commitment to maintain and enforce existing environmental legislations (nature restoration law, climate legislation etc)*
 - Call for fundamental change in CAP payments distribution and share of budget (+ Governance)*
 - Call for a time bound Just transition Fund outside of the CAP*
 - Call for supporting trend towards rebalancing diets towards higher share of plant-based proteins*
 - Call for setting up a new 'benchmarking' system that aims at harmonising methodologies to assess on-farm sustainability, with common criteria, metrics, indicators and verification tools*
 - Call to the EU to publish its Integrated Nutrient Management Plan (**INMAP**)*
 - Call for greater coherence between trade policies and environmental/climate requirements*



The report and its recommendations on GHG emissions reduction

Focus on the sessions related to 'Reducing GHG emissions in agriculture and food systems'

- A comprehensive methodology for accounting and setting sectorial goals:

Call the EC to provide a roadmap for reducing emissions

- A general pathway to boost the implementation of management measures and promote access to investment across agriculture and territories in order to advance towards the defined emissions reduction goals.

- support the farmers in getting better access to practices and technologies to reduce emissions.
- Territorial approaches (where more tools and support needed / areas with high concentration of livestock)- not only be based on GHG emissions, but also take into account other environmental ambitions that are not being met.
- All actors in the food value chain should contribute to the effort of emissions reduction
- Call for a **strong policy for emissions reduction** to be in place but considers that it is premature to draw any definitive conclusions on it



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Dialogue's first thoughts on the the design and implementation of a carbon pricing mechanism:

- Should take into account the sector's unique characteristics
- The design should not incentivize polluters to buy offsets instead of reducing their emissions
- Should not lead to undue burden (compliance, reporting, monitoring costs) on farmers that outweighs the benefits without addressing non-GHG emissions + the scheme should take into account the importance of sharing the cost across the value chain rather than borne solely by farmers or consumers.
- Specific attention and support must be granted to the distributional impact of the roll out of an ETS, especially on less affluent households, as any increase in food prices will impact more intensively their budget than other household segments.
- It should be ensured that there are no inconsistencies between EU and national systems.
- The revenues generated by a potential AgETS should solely be earmarked to support less affluent households, investments in the transition of agri-food sector actors, and the nature-based restoration of carbon sinks.



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Thanks for listening!

Keep in touch



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