

# Report of Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture must kick-start change towards new focus for Europe's agri-food policies

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**Delivery of the final report of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of the EU agriculture (SDA) launched by Commission President von der Leyen in January marks an important step on the path towards a new EU agri-food policy approach. Innovation and competitiveness must become enabling drivers for economic and environmental sustainability.**

Following a good half year of intense discussions, the Chair of the SDA, Professor Peter Strohschneider, today officially handed over the report to the Commission President during a common press conference.

As underlined by President von der Leyen, it provides an important contribution to the new "vision for agriculture" she announced for the first one hundred days of the new European Commission, which shall set out a comprehensive new direction for the EU in this policy area.

The report itself is more than one hundred pages long and the breadth of views and differences of opinion are clearly noticeable. This reflects the very diverse composition of the group which was made up by the representatives of 30 different stakeholder organisations encompassing financial institutions, farmer organisations, industries and NGOs.

*"It is obvious that not all participants share all the views expressed and all the recommendations put forward in this report. It is very much a compromise text that contains a lot of language offering different angles for interpretation",* Garlich von Essen, Secretary and CEO of Euroseeds, commented following the press conference.

Euroseeds was represented on the SDA by its President Michael Gohn and provided both its general views to the discussions and its specific expertise in relation to the potential of plant breeding and other innovative technologies for a better future for Europe's agriculture.

*"There was clear agreement that agriculture and food are of strategic importance for Europe. This is an important achievement of the SDA itself and sets a new baseline for the EU. But we also must acknowledge that quite diverging views remain on what policy choices Europe should make in re-shaping its approach to agriculture. As Euroseeds, we remain convinced that new technologies, innovative products and services hold much potential to enable a truly competitive and sustainable European agri-food sector. Freeing that potential will require concrete policy choices and consequent regulatory action during this new Commission term. We hope that today marks the start of a transition that we expect to become much more concrete in the "Vision for Agriculture" announced by President von der Leyer",* von Essen summarised.



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