

Agri-Food Chain Coalition Statement on the Draghi Report and the Future of European Competitiveness

The publication of the European Commission's Draghi Report outlines critical strategies to keep the EU competitive in the face of global challenges such as climate change, shifting trade dynamics, and industrial stagnation.

As a coalition representing key players across the agri-food value chain, we strongly believe that investment in sustainable practices and innovation must be backed by outcome-based policy frameworks that drive real impact on the ground for farmers and agri-food chain operators.

Despite their undeniable importance, Agriculture and the agri-food chain are absent from the strategic sectors listed in the report even though the President von der Leyen rightly stated last week on the day of the publication of the report on the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture that "it would be difficult to find a sector as important as agriculture, which is as vital to our health as it is to our economy and our autonomy."

Agriculture and the agri-food chain, like energy and defence, are pillars of the EU sovereignty and are therefore essential and strategic. Coherent actions are needed from EU Institutions, especially with the upcoming European Commission and the next political mandate.

In that respect, we agree with report's emphasis on the importance of public private partnerships harnessing cutting-edge technologies to ensure that Europe's food systems remain both sustainable and competitive.

Also, collaboration across the entire value chain is essential to ensure that investments are well-targeted and that policies strike the right balance between ambition and practicality. The focus must be on fostering innovation that yields tangible benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience, and food systems.

Our coalition is committed to working together to deliver solutions that help European farmers, food producers, and supply chain actors meet sustainability targets while securing the future of food security across the continent.

CEMA - www.cema-agri.org

COCERAL - www.coceral.com

COPA COGECA - www.copa-cogeca.be

CropLife Europe – <u>www.croplifeeurope.eu</u>

EFFAB - www.effab.info

EuropaBio - www.europabio.org

Euroseeds - www.euroseeds.eu

FEFAC - www.fefac.eu

FEFANA - www.fefana.org

Fertilizers Europe - www.fertilizerseurope.com