

12/10/2021

Statement

A leak, no scoop

The document leaked today by Politico is a presentation given and shared to all Copa-Cogeca members. We consider that there is nothing problematic within this document, for those who know EU public affairs, as it is part of a normal advocacy strategy that all interest groups can prepare at EU level, NGOs included. No scoop.

As clearly expressed in the leaked document, we fully support the Farm to Fork general objective of making our food system more sustainable. What Copa-Cogeca is asking for is a comprehensive EU impact assessment of the Farm to Fork Strategy. Targets alone are not a strategy unless they are accompanied by EU measures on how to achieve them on the ground, in a practical and realistic manner. To this, the European farming lobby will always be committed, and they must be heard like anyone else. The multiple policy consequences currently being discussed in the EU come together at farm level. Therefore, a comprehensive, cross-policy impact assessment is necessary. All academic studies on the table so far have limits and they won't replace the work that should be conducted by the European Commission.

Yes, we are also working together on this issue with most of the food chain representatives in Brussels and we have already shared our concerns publicly on various occasions. We will continue to collaborate publicly, as this shows that there is currently a very broad shared concern.

Yes, an event on Farm to Fork is organised by Euractiv today. Every day there are numerous events organised in partnership with European media, respecting ethical standards. We consider it normal that all opinions can and should be expressed on a subject as important as the future of our food system.

We are well aware that this leak is a deliberate attempt to trigger a media backlash just as we start speaking of the potential impacts of the Farm to Fork strategy for the first time. The current discussion shows the desperate need for public data on the subject.

Overall, no scoop.

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¹ <https://copa-cogeca.eu/Archive/Download?id=3921510&fmt=pdf>

² <https://copa-cogeca.eu/Archive/Download?id=3921510&fmt=pdf>

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For further information, please contact:

Ksenija Simovic
Communication Manager
ksenija.simovic@copa-cogeca.eu

CDP(21)6655:1
