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# Press Release

## **EU and world food security: Neither dramatising nor minimising!**

**Copa and Cogeca held their presidency meetings this week in Brussels. Speakers from the Commission, the FAO and UNAF analysed the complexity of the Ukrainian, European and global agri-food situation. These exchanges were at odds with the stances taken by Executive Vice President, Frans Timmermans, at the same time in the Environment Committee.**

Copa and Cogeca members exchanged views with Mariia Didukh, Director of the Ukrainian National Agrarian Forum (UNAF), raising awareness of the cruelty that the Ukrainian people and [our fellow farmers](#) are facing. Mariia Didukh also rightly recalled that before the war, Ukraine supported the food consumption of over 400 million people worldwide. A figure that cannot be ignored.

Copa-Cogeca's solidarity is total and does not stop at words. Ramon Armengol, President of Cogeca, said: "Considering the humanitarian needs and the exceptional and temporary nature of the proposed measures, the European farming community supports the proposals put forward by the Commission to reorganise supplies both in Ukraine and in the EU. EU food standards, in particular safety standards, must be respected and we will monitor its implementation to avoid any market disruption."

A second intervention marked the Copa-Cogeca exchanges, that of Maximo Torero, Chief Economist at the FAO. The economist showed the significant expected food prices increase worldwide following closely the rise of farming input prices. His words echo those of António Guterres' prediction of "a hurricane of famine" on a global scale and those of the IMF yesterday, fearing "food riots" on the African continent. Mr Torero also confirmed that Europe does not have to fear food shortages. However, there will most certainly be a problem of accessibility for disadvantaged European citizens due to rising prices. A vision shared by Copa-Cogeca since the launch of the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

More than ever, the EU should be supportive of its farmers and maintain a constructive dialogue with them. [The inopportune statements](#) of the Executive Vice President, Frans Timmermans, based on fake news coming straight from social media, was very badly received by the entire farming community present in Brussels. We invite interested editors and journalists to take a moment and read our communications on this matter.

Christiane Lambert, President of Copa, said: "Our position is clear: neither dramatise nor minimise the situation! The statements of Vice-President Frans Timmermans are problematic in two respects: Copa-Cogeca does not oppose agriculture and environment, farmers will know how to produce better and sustainably. Food chains will break down in the most dependent countries worldwide, and Europe cannot be selfish and inward-looking in this context. The values of humanism and solidarity have been the DNA of the European construction since the Treaty of Rome, which aimed at peace and stability through development and trade. 65 years later, history is repeating itself. Europe's farmers will have to meet the historic challenge once again."

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/interview/eu-farmers-boss-war-might-hit-our-food-supplies-but-will-hit-africa-middle-east-harder>,

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/agriculture-alimentation/news/lukraine-limite-l'exportation-de-denrees-alimentaires-essentielles-alors-que-la-securite-alimentaire-de-lue-inquiete-de-plus-en-plus/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://copa-cogeca.eu/Archive/Download?id=3981144&fmt=pd>

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Translation in DE, FR, ES, IT, PL, and RO will soon be available on the Copa-Cogeca website.

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For further information, please contact:

**Patrick Pagani**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
patrick.pagani@copa-cogeca.eu

**Jean-Baptiste Boucher**  
Communications Director  
Mobile: + 32 474 840 836  
jean-baptiste.boucher@copa-cogeca.eu

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**CDP(22)2365:1**

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