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Press Release

Copa and Cogeca welcome MEPs vote on tackling climate change and meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement, saying it gives Member States flexibility in way they reduce greenhouse gas emissions in non-trading sectors (non-ETS)

Copa and Cogeca welcomed today MEPs vote on tackling climate change and meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement, saying it gives Member States flexibility in the way that they reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the non-trading sectors (non-ETS).

Speaking in Brussels after the vote, Liisa Pietola Chairwoman of Copa-Cogeca's Environment Working Party said "We welcome European Parliament Agriculture Committee vote as a positive step towards tackling climate change in a more realistic way. The Paris global climate deal clearly stated that agriculture must adapt in a balanced way without putting food production at risk. This needs to be respected. That is why we welcome MEPs vote today which gives the necessary flexibility and increases the land use, land use change and forestry sector (LULUCF) credits to 425 million tonnes, which is the minimum if we want to really incentivise the substitution of fossil based materials and energy".

She continued: "Agriculture and forestry are part of the solution in fighting climate change. Our forests are growing and we need to manage them to keep them healthy and young, and this was also recognised by MEPs today. Farmers and agri cooperatives have already reduced their emissions by 24% since 1990 and work with natural processes that cannot be completely controlled or substituted. This is why it is a positive step that conditions have been agreed concerning the flexibility between the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and Effort sharing Regulation (ESR) and why it is very important to continue promoting climate efficient production, also through the increase in ETS credits to 200 million tonnes. We must underline that flexibility is crucial for cost efficiency and necessary for the land use sectors to fulfil their multiple purposes. We believe that there is plenty of inspiration from today's vote for the next vote in Parliaments' Environment Committee, and also for talks in the EU Council and we urge them to take note of the Agriculture Committees opinion. Everyone agrees that the end result of this Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) must equally support economic, environmental and social sustainability".

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