Press Release
Farming sector supports thematic strategy on soil protection but rejects bureaucratic new directive

Brussels. COPA-COGECA urges the French Presidency to focus resources on developing a non-legislative EU strategy for soil protection. It rejects on the other hand the new layers of red-tape that would be created by the proposed soil directive.

“What the farming sector needs is more research, more exchange of best practices and more soil monitoring. We strongly disagree that there is a need for a framework directive on soil protection. The proposed soil directive is out of touch with the reality of how farmers are already doing their utmost to preserve one of the most precious resources they have: their soil” said Pekka PESONEN, the Secretary General of COPA-COGECA.

“Unlike industry, farmers cannot just pack up and move on if they do not treat their land well. Their livelihood depends on maintaining it in good condition, ensuring its long-term fertility and productivity. What is more, the draft directive does not recognise the large body of already existing national and Community legislation that deals with soil protection. Its only effect is to create heavier administrative burdens for land managers, as well as national, regional and local authorities”, the Secretary General explained.

He concluded by saying, “Soil protection is best addressed through carefully targeted advice and information, partnerships, further research and through greater emphasis on monitoring, as is highlighted in the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection. It is high time that some people wake up and realise just how much is already being done.”

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