

5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## **Statement on the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU**

Geopa welcomes the conclusion of the Strategic Dialogue initiated by the Commission President Von der Leyen and thanks chaired by Professor Strohschneider.

As one of the key stakeholders in European agriculture, Geopa had the privilege and responsibility to be among the participants of the dialogue. Our contributions to the dialogue's debates and recommendations aimed at guiding and urging the European institutions and Member States to support the sector face its many severe challenges.

In this sense, we would like to thank Professor Strohschneider and all the participants of the dialogue for their availability to reach a consensus on the fundamental measures that must be implemented to guarantee the future of European agriculture.

Of these, we emphasise:

- The recognition of the central role that European and national sectoral social partners have in formulating and implementing solutions for our sector.
- The need to support the mechanical and digital transformation of the sector, with a view to offering better qualified job opportunities, higher pay levels, more attractive career perspectives, safer working environments, higher competitiveness for business undertakings and more environmentally friendly operations.
- The call to maintain and enhance the European support to the development of the Agrifood Pact for Skills.
- The necessary reintroduction of agriculture into all stages of mandatory education curricula to give visibility to the true value of farming and its many rewarding career opportunities.
- The demand to support all farmers to navigate the complex bureaucracy and provide them with the necessary resources and tools to avoid triggering any sanctioning procedures.

In this respect, we look forward to the announced *Agrifood Vision* including all these elements and to contributing to the work of the new European Board on Agriculture and Food.

### **About Geopa**

Geopa is the voice of the European agricultural employers. We represent 22 national employer associations in the sector.

Geopa is the European social partner for agriculture officially recognised by the European Commission. It is a member of DG AGRI's Civil Dialogue Groups, a coordinating member of the Agrifood Pact for Skills and a key partner in several European projects promoting skills, safety and social dialogue in the sector.

