



European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors

Confédération Européenne des Entrepreneurs de Travaux Techniques Agricoles, Ruraux et Forestiers

Europäischer Zentralverband der land- und forstwirtschaftlichen Lohnunternehmer und ländlichen Dienstleistungsunternehmer

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CEETTAR STATEMENT on the CURRENT EU FARMERS DEMONSTRATIONS

The European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR) think that the innovative approaches taken by contractors is already, but not sufficiently, taken into consideration in the current debate.

Across Europe, farmers are demonstrating to demand a slowdown of the moving towards a more sustainable agriculture. CEETTAR consider that sustainability can only be achieved through a timely agenda. Some measures such as the changes on the special rate levy on diesel fuel should be mitigated with compensatory measures.

However, our business model now needs to be re-considered, in view of the climate protection challenges. Contractors are a part of the solution to the equation. Contractors provide precision agriculture solutions to farmers, which can have immediate access to these new technologies. By stimulating the use of these technologies, contractors make them available for all EU farmers, large or small.

Through their practices, contractors create a bridge between biodiversity protection and food production. Therefore, discussions should concentrate on how to make the most of the technological options to reduce energy consumption, the quantity of sprayed pesticides and other practices, on their way to be prohibited without reasonable alternatives on the market.

CEETTAR wants to see the EU precautionary principle balanced with a EU innovation principle, in order to create win-win situation between all actors of the agri-food value chain, in which farmers hire highly equipped machinery services, provided by contractors. The debate should be directed towards a more optimistic approach. The mission for the future is still to maximise yields, but also to maximize environment protection.

About CEETTAR:

The European Confederation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors, established in 1961, represents about 150,000 companies and nearly 600,000 workers. It aims to represent the interests of land-based contractors in Europe. In 2014, the European Network of Forestry Entrepreneurs decided to merge with CEETTAR, resulting in a stronger and more representative single organisation representing land-based contractors at EU level. CEETTAR aims to be a proactive force to benefit the contractors and the rural economy at European level.