



## **BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination**

Avenue Louise 209/7  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium  
+32 (0) 486 973 920  
[www.bee-life.eu](http://www.bee-life.eu)

Brussels, 4 July 2025

Dear Commissioner Ferreira,  
Dear Commissioner Hansen,  
Dear Commissioner Serafin,  
Dear Vice-President Fitto,

### **Subject: Food production and rural development in the framework of MFF**

**As the EU finalises its next long-term budget and post-2027 agricultural policy, we urge the Commission to prioritise the transition to sustainable food systems, promote European healthy food sovereignty, and ensure the competitiveness of rural areas.**

Small farms are vanishing at an alarming rate. Similarly, this is the case with beekeeping operations, who need to deal with low selling prices, high production costs and impossible environmental conditions. Increasingly, Europeans are struggling to afford food — let alone healthy, nutritious options. Climate change is accelerating droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events, threatening harvests, farmers' livelihoods, and food security. Business as usual is no longer an option.

In the face of increased competitiveness in rural areas, which produce the large majority of the food consumed in Europe<sup>1</sup>, and with climate resilience and defence competing for budget, the EU must ensure the livelihoods of farmers, beekeepers and rural communities. In the current economic, societal and ecological context, it is of utmost importance to accompany farmers' shift towards agro-ecological principles<sup>2</sup> for greater resilience of our agroecosystems, food chains, and markets, allowing farmers to be more independent of agro-industry and making smarter, better-targeted use of the public's money. By supporting EU farmers in a climate-resilient and healthy environment, Europe's food sovereignty can be enhanced.

<sup>1</sup> See page 67 in <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/15216629/18054337/KS-FK-23-001-EN-N.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Agroecological principles can be found here:  
<https://www.agroecology-europe.org/the-13-principles-of-agroecology/>



Cutting bureaucracy to ease farmers' burdens must go hand in hand with maintaining strong policies to protect soil, water, air, and biodiversity, so that farmers can work in harmony with Nature to produce healthy food and combat climate change. We cannot afford a race to the bottom at the expense of environmental and social goals. Public administration managing agricultural policy implementation has to be more efficient, avoiding putting the burden on farmers.

The post-2027 CAP aims to enhance the accountability of public spending. The expenditure on the current second pillar needs to be maintained, if not increased, to secure the budget and provide permanent monitoring of the practical efficiency of the measures supported by the CAP. For this purpose, field observatories for specific indicators, such as the Bird or Pollinator Indexes, or monitoring frameworks established by the INSIGNIA-Europe<sup>3</sup> Initiative on chemical pollution or the Water Framework Directive, among others, were set up and require support.

Rural communities are eager to develop and have equal opportunities to those in urban areas. That is the reason why an increased budget needs to be invested in connecting these communities and providing them with access to equal infrastructure and educational opportunities.

In parallel, agricultural products produced in rural areas need to be traded, transformed and finally transported and sold to consumers. Public funding should be available for post-farmgate value chains, including cooperative infrastructure, local processing facilities and logistics networks adapted to diverse, agroecological farming models.

Pursuing short-term competitiveness has driven the industrialisation and specialisation of the EU agri-food sector. It's time to reverse course, placing diversification, nature-based solutions such as ecological intensification, performant local food production systems, and resilience at the heart of EU priorities. Biodiversity and pollinators must be at the core of any future-oriented food policy, and the budget must allow to make it happen.

Finally, in line with a real food systems approach, the EU must ensure that all consumers have easy and affordable access to healthy and sustainable diets, and if this food has been produced locally, even better.

We look forward to engaging in a constructive dialogue with you.

Best regards,

Lars Hellander  
President of BeeLife

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.insignia-bee.eu/>