



RESOLUTION:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT TO COMPETITIVENESS OF EU FARMERS**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Brussels, Belgium  
On the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2015*

**Recognizing:**

- The situation of young farmers in Europe has been a constant concern for YEPP, reflected in the adoption of a resolution in May 2012 on the "Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: Supporting Opportunities for Young Farmers"
- Given high entry barriers in European agriculture market resulting from regulatory red tape and difficulties to access the market, the future of young farmers profession is being jeopardized.
- Half of the EU population is living in rural areas, standing for 77% of the EU territory, which gives the farmers an essential role in shaping and stimulating the development of these rural territories throughout the EU
- In addition, agriculture represents 6% of the EU GDP, 12 millions farmers, 15 million companies and 46 million induced jobs.
- The very delicate social and human context encountered by the farmers in general is also strongly impacting the young farmers living and working conditions.

**Acknowledging:**

- Despite all these difficulties, the profile of young farmers has changed: the farming profession is increasingly chosen, and young farmers have more and more a formal education in this area, going along a pronounced entrepreneurial spirit.
- Successful generational renewal is a crucial issue in Europe, where about 40% of the farmers are above 65, while only 6% of them are under 35 years old.

- This generational renewal is also key to achieve the European Commission's long-term objectives of competitiveness of the agriculture of food security in the EU.

#### **YEPP calls on the European Commission**

- To promote a better coordination between its services and national authorities in order to simplify, clarify and avoid the entanglement of European and national rules, laws and standards;
- To help young farmers by simplifying their installation procedure and formalities;
- To promote and develop the private storage of the milk powder, which structures and regulates the market, since current storage durations are not incentivizing enough;
- To develop meat exports (in particular bovine meat) worldwide through the trade agreements it is negotiating.
- To keep an eye on the agricultural aspect and the rules governing meat imports (in particular bovine and sheep meat); as part of the trade agreement it concludes.
- To make farmers less dependent on classical CAP subsidy by enhancing the recourse to alternative and innovative ways of using the EARDF funds for agriculture, via financial engineering instruments enabling a wider leverage effect and more efficient EU public investments (be it to support liquid asset management, reinforce farm holding's equity share, accompany the funding of collective investments...). For the purpose of enhancing the use of financial engineering instruments by young farmers, dedicated training programs should be set up and formalized by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank.