

Marion Picot
Secretary General

***GENERATIONAL RENEWAL IN
AGRICULTURE***



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

In agriculture



→ CEJA's core mission!

CEJA was Founded in 1958

To raise the issue of **generational renewal** in agriculture;

→ Acts as a facilitator in discussions between stakeholders across the food chain;

→ Provides a networking platform for young farmers in Europe.



CEJA Members

34 national organisations
22 EU Member States, the UK, Serbia,
Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

In agriculture



6,5% of farmers **below the age of 35 years** old in 2020 (Eurostat).

11,9% under the age of 40.

The age gap doubles with a **gender gap**, with 30% of farm managed by women – 42% of whom are over the age of 65, while only 4,2% below the age of 35.



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture



Young people willing to set-up an activity in the sector are confronted to a **difficult access to entrepreneurship**

- Access to **land**
- Access to **credit**
- Inadequate **value repartition** along the value chain
- Social educational opportunities – **knowledge & skills**
- Attractiveness of **rural areas**



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture



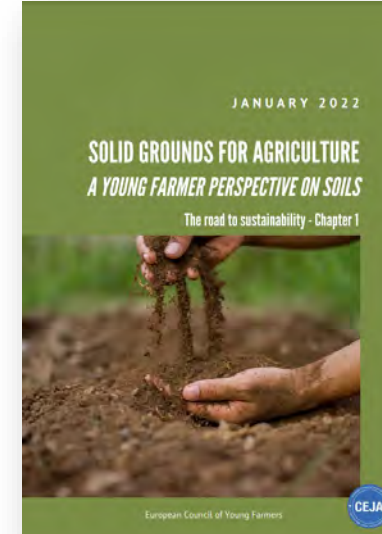
Access to land

Challenges

- **Low availability**
- **Impeded intergenerational land mobility**
- **A lack of data and transparency** in land planning and land ownership;
- A lack of **long-term certainty** to invest into land when rented;

Recommendations:

- A binding EU objective for the **preservation of agricultural land**
- A better use of a better **definition of active farmer in the CAP**;
- Provide an intergenerational policy mix to **facilitate land mobility and transfer**;
- **Better retirement policies**;
- Use **tax reliefs**;
- Provide **guarantees and purchasing options for leases**;
- Communicate on the **importance of agricultural land**.



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture



Access to credit

The financing gap in agriculture stands at **over €62 billion**, representing a **33% increase in comparison to 2017**.

Figure 3.1. Total agriculture financing gap, EUR million



Source: Own calculations based on fi-compass survey, 2023



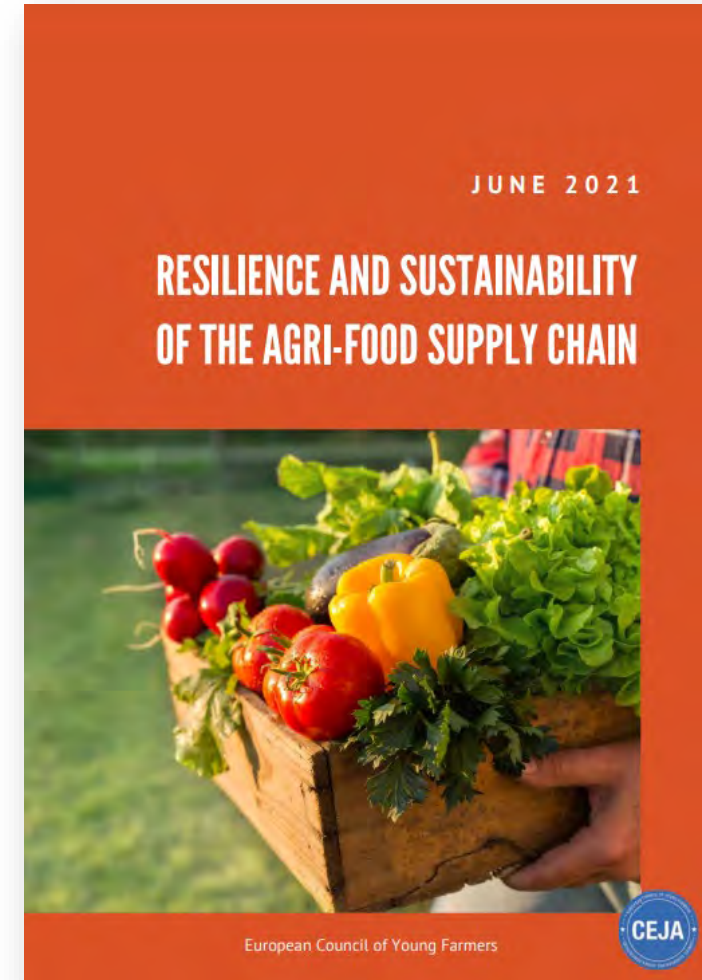
GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture



Inadequate **value repartition**

- **Limited bargaining power** of farmers
- **Unfair Trading Practices** (no proper enforcement of the UTPs Directive)

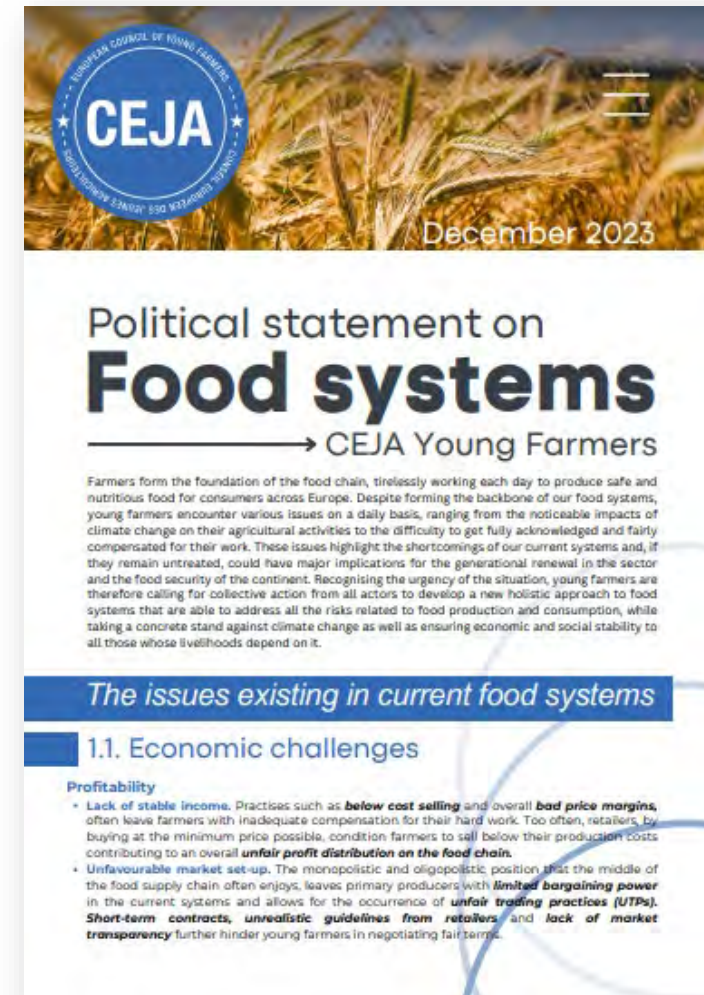
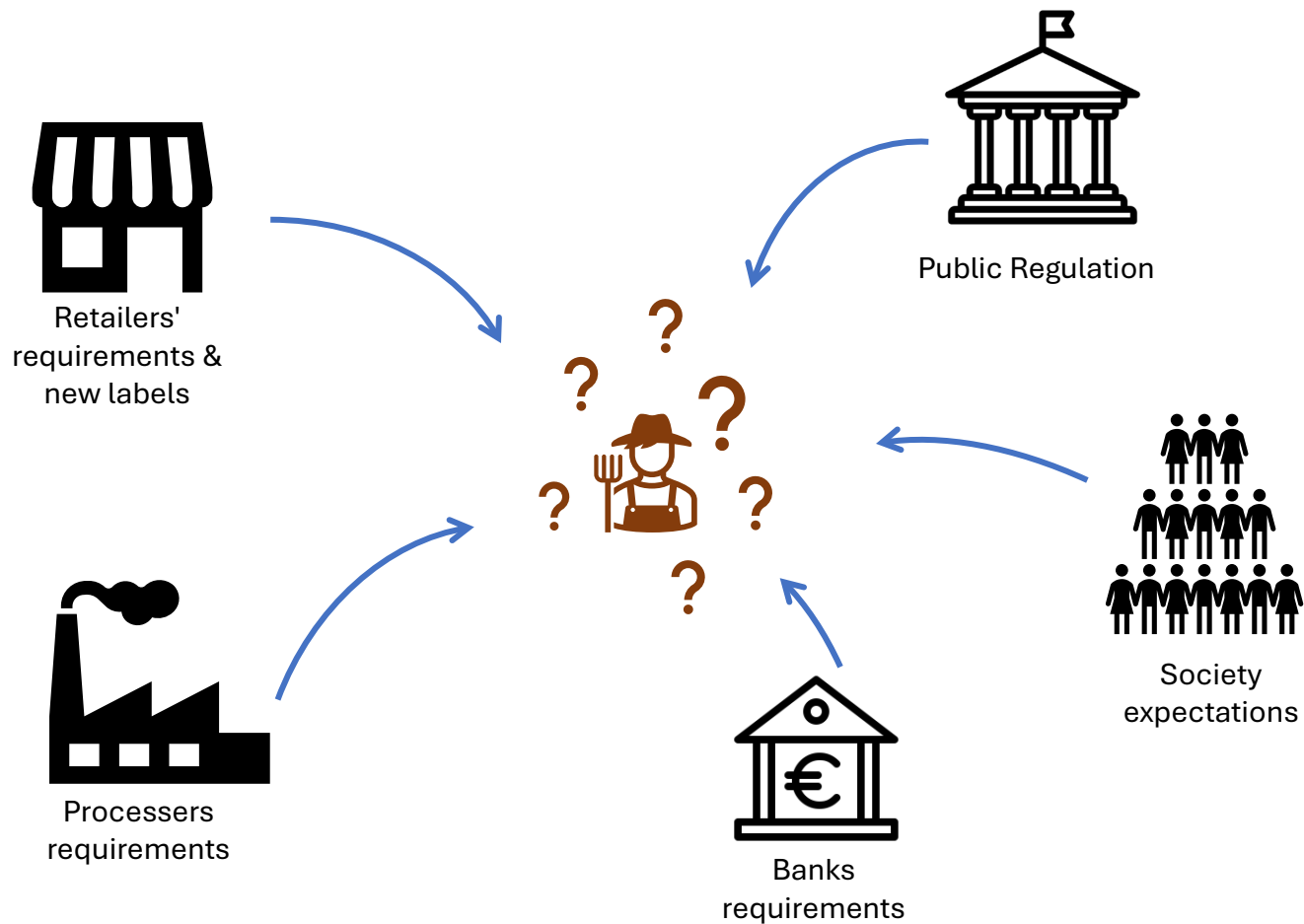


GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture



No common definition of *sustainability*

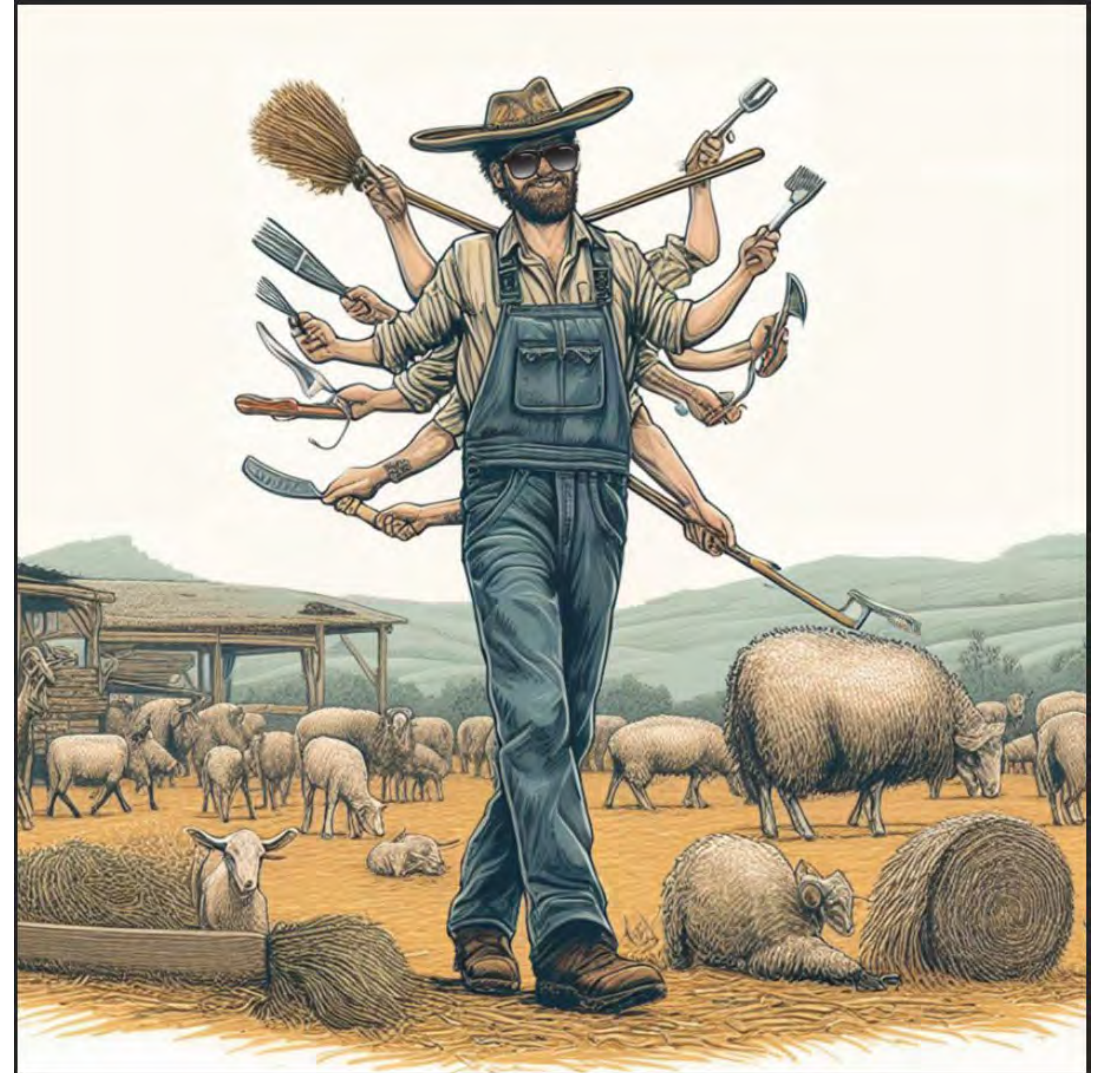


GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture

Knowledge & skills

In a **highly technical profession** with an extended scope of necessary skills (further training on accountancy and the uptake of innovations, accent on environmental sustainability and climate action) the upskilling of farmers and advisors is key.



GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

in agriculture

Attractiveness of rural areas & farming

Challenges

- Demographic change
- Lack of connectivity
- Low income levels
- Access to services

Pathways for action

- Accessible and life-long education and training
- Business development and maintenance
- Rural broadband and connectivity
- Access to health services and infrastructures
- Coherence between the different levels of governance



THE WAY FORWARD – CONTEXT



→ Context

→ Heritage of the 2024 protests and continuation of the simplification agenda;

→ Uncertainty linked to the future Multiannual Financial Framework, with renewed methodology and no ring-fenced budget for young farmers;

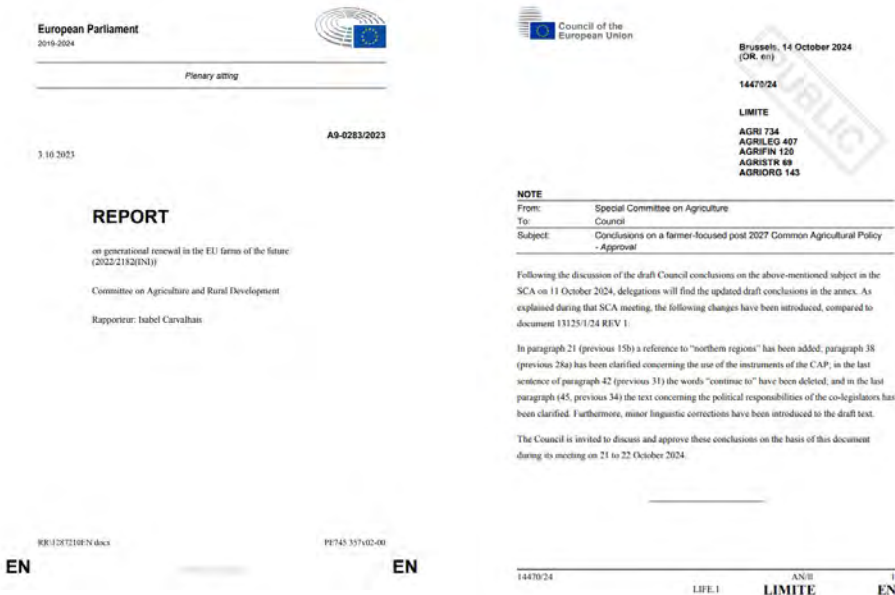
→ Geopolitical situation creates trade-offs in trade policy and ultimately in the CAP.



THE WAY FORWARD – ROAD TO THE VISION



Work of CEJA to prepare the ground



THE WAY FORWARD – ROAD TO EU STRATEGY



Work of CEJA to prepare the ground

EU Strategy for generational renewal in agriculture

Positive steps for young farmers
yet **no minimum CAP budget**

Today, the European Commission published an



EU Strategy for generational renewal in agriculture

A milestone document recognising once again the **urgency** to support young farmers and the need for **coordinated action** across all governance levels

It provides an identification of key challenges:

- 1 Access to credit and finance
- 2 Access to knowledge and skills
- 3 Access to land
- 4 Resilience, fair living conditions, and access to new income opportunities
- 5 Succession and retirement

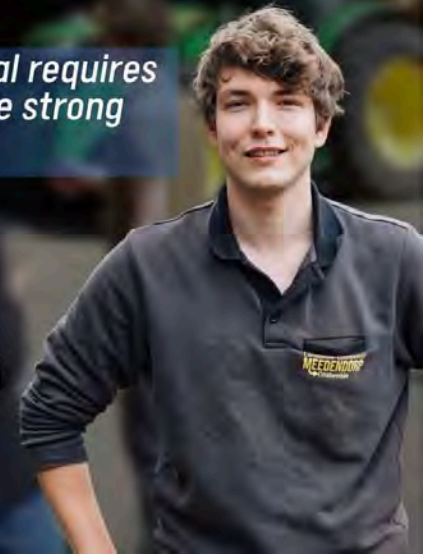
3/11

"We welcome the strategy as a long-needed political signal. It tackled head-on sensitive topics that are crucial to young farmers' future: land access, national social policies, or taxation. It demonstrates that better European-level coordination is achievable while fully respecting national competences."

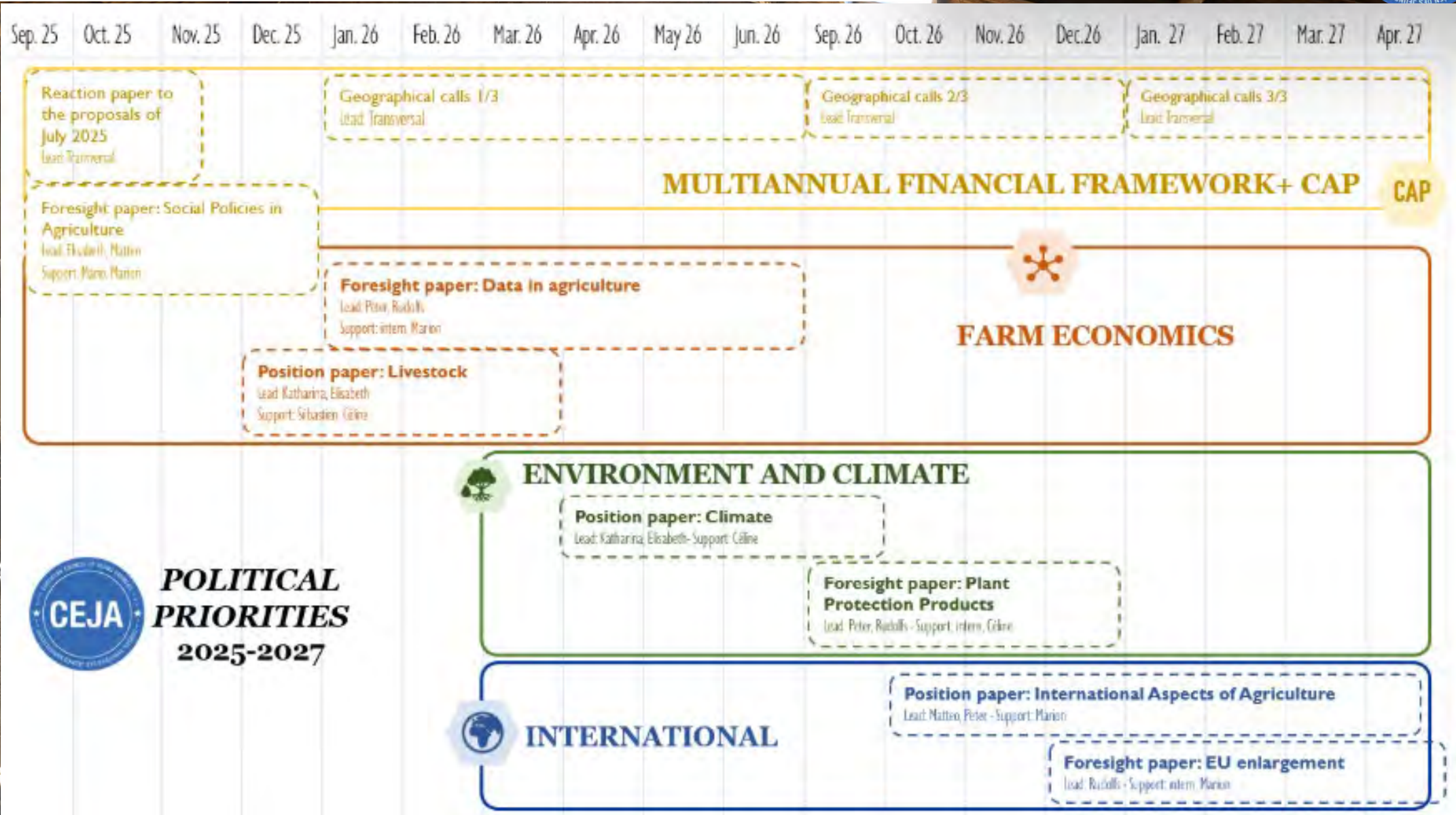
"But without a ring-fenced budget, it risks becoming a missed opportunity. Aspirational targets without binding commitments are not a strategy. They are a gamble."

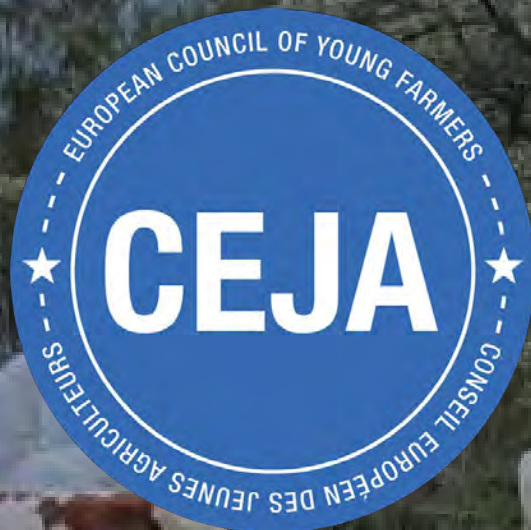
"Generational renewal requires resources besides the strong political backing"

Peter Meedendorp
CEJA President



THE WAY FORWARD – FUTURE OF THE CAP





THANK YOU

Marion Picot

Secretary General of CEJA