



European
Landowners'
Organization

European Landowners' Organization Applauds Withdrawal of Flawed Plant Protection Proposal by European Commission

Brussels, February 8, 2024 — The announcement by President Ursula von der Leyen on the withdrawal of the Proposal for a Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products (SUR) marks a significant turning point in European agricultural policy. The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) welcomes this decision, which follows the rejection of the proposal by the European Parliament in the November plenary session of 2023.

The European Landowners' Organization acknowledges President von der Leyen's recognition that the SUR proposal, in its existing form, was ill-conceived and inadequately assessed. The top-down approach rooted in the Farm to Fork logic lacked comprehensive evaluation, sustainable financing, and viable alternatives for farmers.

ELO echoes the sentiment that the focus must now shift towards solution-oriented approaches. Instead of imposing rigid constraints, there is a clear imperative to foster innovation and explore alternatives that genuinely align with the goals of sustainable agriculture. Furthermore, these alternatives should be made available to farmers as soon as possible to equip them with a proper toolbox in their fight against climate change.

In light of this development, the European Landowners' Organization underscores the paramount importance of collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders. It is crucial to chart a path forward that ensures the sustainable use of plant protection products while safeguarding the viability of European agriculture. This withdrawal underscores the credibility and importance of the ongoing strategic dialogue.

On matters concerning Plant Protection Products (PPPs) and other agricultural issues, ELO advocates for meaningful farmer involvement in the discussions. Realistic approaches must be developed collaboratively, ensuring their practicality and effectiveness when implemented on the ground.

Moving forward, the European Landowners' Organization remains steadfast in its commitment to collaborating with policymakers, stakeholders, and farmers. Together, we will strive to develop policies and practices that promote sustainable agriculture while meeting the diverse needs of European farmers and consumers.

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About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.

