

Can you introduce yourself and share what drives your passion for agriculture?

I am Samira Maskan, 28 years old, representing the interests of Romanian farmers in Brussels within decision-making institutions. I discovered my passion when I realized my generation has the power to drive change. Instead of blaming others, I chose to get involved. I am a realist—I know change is difficult and often feels in vain, but not trying means losing by default. My goal is to leave a mark and be among those who can say they did everything they could, even if change isn't always possible.

What challenges have you faced in your career and how did you overcome them?

The biggest challenge I faced was my age. Early in my career, I often encountered skepticism, with some assuming that I was either too young or lacked the expertise to contribute meaningfully. Instead of letting this discourage me, I focused on consistently proving my capabilities through in-depth research, well-prepared arguments, and persistence. Over time, I earned the respect and trust needed to have a seat at the negotiation table and for my voice to be heard and listened to.

What led you to your current role? Was there a defining moment?

I started as a volunteer at the Romanian Farmers' Club in 2018. It was a challenging journey, with many moments of doubt when I felt like giving up because I wasn't seeing the results I had hoped for. I looked around and felt like everyone else had progressed much further in their careers than I had. But then I took a step back to reflect on what success meant to me. That's when I realized my biggest motivation was to leave something meaningful behind.



Samira Maskan

Communication Director - Coordinator
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My turning point came when I won an internship at the European Commission at 22 years old, competing against 20,000 applicants for 600 spots. It's hard to describe the feeling—it was the first time I truly felt proud of myself. It was also the moment I realized that failure is no longer a disappointment but rather an additional source of motivation.

What advice would you give to women entering your field today?

“ Don't be afraid to dream big, no matter how many obstacles come your way. Stay persistent, even when the journey gets tough. You will face more failures than successes, and that's completely normal. Avoid comparing your progress to anyone else's, everyone has their own path, and you will reach your destination in your own way. And if you don't, perhaps that wasn't truly your destination. People see the good things that you do, but criticism often comes easier than recognition—stay focused on your goals. ”

How does your work contribute to the future of agriculture?

My work is very extensive, but on a brief, general level, it involves analyzing issues in the agricultural sector, conducting studies, identifying solutions, and then presenting and negotiating them with decision-makers. . My work is closely connected with farmers

ministries, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. It contributes to the future of agriculture by promoting sustainable policies, ensuring a more competitive and resilient agricultural sector that is adapted to current and future challenges.

Can you share a moment when you felt particularly supported or uplifted by other women in your field?

“ I can't pinpoint just one exact moment because I've been fortunate to always have strong, supportive women around me. Whether through mentorship, collaboration, or simple words of encouragement, I've felt the presence of women who uplift rather than compete. Their resilience, ambition, and ability to navigate challenges motivate me every day. Seeing women break barriers, lead with confidence, and support each other in a field that is not always welcoming drives me to do the same. ”