



CEMA
European Agricultural
Machinery Association



24 January 2024

Subject: Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU

Dear President von der Leyen,

We welcome the launch of the “*Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the European Union*”. As you rightly said when you announced this initiative in your 2023 State of the Union address, agriculture and the protection of the natural world must go hand in hand. For that to be successful, you stated that we need “more dialogue and less polarisation”. In your speech at the EU Agri-Food Days conference on 6 December 2023, you also stressed that the Commission’s ambition is to bring all the actors in the food chain to contribute to the initiative.

We are concerned that we as key stakeholders in the agricultural sector, representing pertinent segments of the value chain from farm to fork, have been excluded from this important conversation. Our organisations are dedicated to promoting sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and should be allowed to participate in the dialogue in order to be able to bring in diverse perspectives and knowledge that are essential to shaping inclusive, well-informed and holistic solutions for the agri-food sector in the EU.

We strongly believe that the *Strategic Dialogue* presents a huge opportunity to address the current challenges and to promote Europe’s future food system by working together. Indeed, our associations and members possess a wealth of insights and expertise to help develop a strategic vision for the future of European agriculture, including how to master the twin digital and green transition. As such we feel that the possibility to provide written input via the dedicated email address and consultations is not sufficient to ensure a proper discussion and exchange.

Therefore, we respectfully ask you to allow us to join the *Strategic Dialogue* and thus ensure that future meetings reflect the full range of stakeholders of the agri-food chain.

Yours sincerely,

Roxane Feller, Secretary General
AnimalhealthEurope

Jelte Wiersma, Secretary General
CEMA

Olivier de Matos, Director General
CropLife Europe

Alexander Döring, Secretary General
FEFAC

Joerg Seifert, Secretary General
FEFANA