

Wolfgang Burtscher
Director General
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

6 January 2025

Cover Letter – Application for Membership of the High-Level Expert Group “European Board on Agriculture and Food”

Dear Mr Burtscher,
Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

CropLife Europe is pleased to submit its application for membership in the High-Level Expert Group “European Board on Agriculture and Food” (EBAF).

As the European voice for crop protection solutions, CropLife Europe represents 25 global companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and 32 national associations operating in the fields of conventional pesticides, biopesticides, plant biotechnology (including New Genomic Techniques), and digital and precision agriculture. With representation spanning all EU Member States, our organisation offers a broad geographical coverage and an in-depth understanding of European agriculture and food systems.

Aligned with the Strategic Dialogue’s main recommendations, our members share a commitment to empowering farmers in their transition to sustainable, innovative, and resilient agricultural practices. Central to this commitment is the provision of a comprehensive toolbox of complementary solutions that enable farmers to select their preferred production model. These tailored approaches optimise resource use, enhance productivity, and contribute to improved environmental outcomes. We believe this ambition aligns closely with EBAF’s objectives to ensure a robust, competitive, and environmentally sustainable European agriculture.

CropLife Europe strongly supports the inclusion of all major stakeholders from the food supply chain in EBAF, believing that addressing contemporary challenges requires a balanced and inclusive approach. As a key actor in the food supply chain, we are confident that our participation will provide valuable insights to the discussions and contribute to practical and well-rounded recommendations that serve the widest collective interest.

Our organisation has a proven history of engaging with EU institutions and effectively representing the sector at the highest levels. This experience allows us to bring a solid understanding of policymaking processes and ensure our contributions are relevant and actionable.

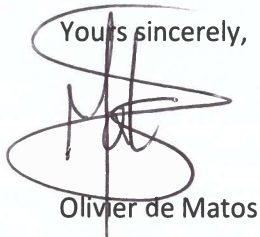
As the leading European organisation representing the crop protection sector, we advocate for an innovation-driven, science-based, and outcome-focused approach and we are ready to fulfil our role. To this end, our members have invested €2.4 billion in biopesticides, with a commitment to reach €4 billion by 2030. Additionally, €3.8 billion has been allocated to digital and precision agriculture innovations, as part of a broader €10 billion committed by 2030. These substantial investments reflect our dedication to equipping farmers with the tools necessary to optimise resource efficiency, enhance productivity, and achieve environmental sustainability.

With a dedicated Brussels-based office and a strong network of professionals, CropLife Europe possesses the administrative and technical capacity to actively contribute to EBAF's work. Our proposed representative, Olivier de Matos, Director General of CropLife Europe, brings extensive experience engaging with EU and national institutions and a deep understanding of European agricultural and environmental policies. Fluent in English and adept at stakeholder representation, Olivier is well-positioned to contribute constructively to EBAF's discussions.

We are committed to working with EBAF by providing strategic advice, fostering dialogue, and advancing policies that promote sustainable, resilient, and competitive EU agricultural systems. We appreciate the opportunity to apply for this membership and are confident that CropLife Europe's participation will contribute to the success of EBAF's mandate.

Thank you for considering our application. We remain at your disposal for any additional information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Olivier de Matos", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Olivier de Matos

on behalf of Jens Hartmann
Chair of the Board of Directors, CropLife Europe