

Brussels, 10 July 2023

Nature restoration cannot be postponed

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

During the plenary votes of 12 July you will decide on the fate of nature restoration in the EU. At a time when European citizens expect action from policymakers to protect them from an uncertain future, it is an important decision, and organic farmers call on you to support the Nature Restoration Law.

Healthy and resilient ecosystems, living and fertile soils, clean and sufficient water are the natural resources on which farmers depend to produce our food. Nature restoration does not make the work of farmers more difficult; quite contrary, farmers will actually benefit from better soil quality, more pollinators and clean waterways. Many small and medium-sized farmers are under pressure: they have to deal with the administrative complications of the implementation of a new CAP, and they have to face the impacts of a changing, more uncertain and more extreme climate. This sensitive context should not be exploited to spread false images about farmers being against environmental legislation. It is not a reason to delay action to stop the destruction of the resources on which farmers depend to produce food, quite the opposite.

Organic farmers very much contest the constructed narrative that the Nature Restoration Law would threaten food security. On the contrary, biodiversity loss and the climate crisis are the biggest threats to food security, and we have the agronomic knowledge necessary to produce food while protecting birds and pollinators, storing carbon in soils, establishing landscape elements and protecting peatlands. Organic farmers have been leading the way, showing that nature protection and productive farming systems can go hand in hand. Organic agriculture shows that a viable farm can increase soil fertility, preserve biodiversity, protect water bodies and store carbon in soils at the same time.¹ Millions of farmers stand ready to adopt more sustainable practices provided they receive the necessary technical agronomic support.

It is no longer possible to ignore the drastic decrease of biodiversity, the decline of pollinators and birds, and the deterioration of soil health. Measures to counteract biodiversity loss and adapting to increased extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods, are inevitable if we want to continue producing food in the EU. It is therefore important to avoid a patchwork of obligations, and to ensure instead a coherent and coordinated approach across the EU, and provide legislation that enables long-term planning and security for farmers.

Rejecting this proposal would mean that any meaningful action will be delayed for at least several years, a time which we cannot risk to lose. The only way to ensure long-term food security in Europe and beyond, is to restore biodiversity and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. Without nature restoration our farming systems will neither be resilient nor productive. IFOAM Organics Europe therefore calls on you to support an ambitious Nature Restoration Law. We count on your support to help farmers to preserve the natural capital on which we depend to produce food and to make European farming systems more resilient.

Yours sincerely,



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¹ IFOAM Organics Europe, 2022. [Organic agriculture and its benefits for climate and biodiversity](#)