



Brussels, 14 October 2021

Open letter of the organisers and supporting organisations of the European Citizen's initiative "Save Bees and Farmers" to the Members of the European Parliament regarding the upcoming vote on the Farm-to-Fork strategy

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

The European food system is in an economic, social and ecological crisis. Urgent and ambitious action is therefore desperately needed. In this context, we are writing to you concerning the upcoming vote on the own-initiative report in the plenary of the European Parliament in the week of 18 October.

By proposing a European Green Deal, including the biodiversity strategy and the Farm-to-Fork strategy, the EU has made a first important step in the right direction. We have therefore welcomed the vote by the Agriculture and the Environment committees of the European Parliament on the Own-initiative report on the Farm-to-Fork Strategy. In this report, the MEPs of both committees have expressed their strong support for the overall strategy. They also demanded for higher ambition and corresponding action along the whole food production chain, as well as a shift of consumption patterns towards more sustainability.

This is well in line with scientific recommendations and could help to initiate a shift of the EU food systems to contribute to the wellbeing of the farming community, the protection of climate and biodiversity on farmland as well as public health and animal welfare. It also reflects the increasing public awareness and societal demands for more ambitious policies. Over 1.2 Million citizens have expressed their support for the European Citizens Initiative "Save Bees and Farmers" and a food system, which protects the ecosystems on which it depends, the reduction and phase-out of the use of pesticides and in favour of increased support for farmers in the necessary transition towards agroecology.

In this light, we as organisers and supporters of the ECI urge all MEPs to adopt the report on the Farm-to-Fork strategy and work towards the 80% reduction target in 2030 and completely phasing out synthetic pesticides by 2035 as demanded by 1,2 Million citizens in the Save Bees and Farmers ECI.

Given the urgency for action, it is now time to move forward to concrete legislative action. The European Parliament should therefore resist the pressure from stakeholders, who wish to continue the business-as-usual, to water down the report from the agriculture and environment-committees.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the [225 organisations from all EU countries](#) that support the Save Bees and Farmers ECI

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tjerk Dalhuisen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tjerk Dalhuisen
Circle of Organisers