



Bringing Organisations & Network Development  
to higher levels in the Farming sector in Europe

## **BOND PROJECT Policy Roundtables**

### **The Coimbra Declaration European family farms need collective action to improve their access to agriculture and food markets**

The participants, having met in Coimbra on 28 and 29 January 2020 at the BOND Policy Roundtable on Family Farms and Market Access declare that:

In view of the devastating effects of the “free” trade agreements, the present CAP and the current functioning of the EU on the life of family farms throughout Europe,

Acknowledging the implications these have on:

- Producer prices unsustainably low (e.g. in 2020 18 cts per kg of peaches in Spain etc.);
- Competition distortion (social, fiscal and environmental dumping);
- Income collapse (the average farmer income being 50% lower than the average salary in other sectors and e.g. in France one out of three farmers earns less than 300€ per month);
- Loss of employment;
- Abandonment of farms (e.g. in the milk sector alone reaching 50% in EU since 2005);
- Disaggregation of the social fabric;
- Human desertification of rural territories;
- Etc.

Acknowledging the devastating consequences for Europe’s unique richness and pride in terms of diversity, quality, and beauty of its culinary traditions and landscapes;

Witnessing a whole sector of Europe’s population vital for its economy, that is disappearing;

Observing the tendency to “uberisation” patterns of labor with increased precarity (e.g. working conditions for agriculture seasonal workers in the many countries);

Propose a list of recommendations including but not limited to the following:

- Disseminate and explain the relevant texts (markets, trade, competition, ... rules) that have implications for the farming sector;
- Change EU rules on public procurement (e.g. establish a minimum of 30% to be sourced locally from family farms);
- Establish minimum guaranteed prices based on sustainable production costs (including labor);
- Tax agriculture products coming from non-EU countries at prices below these minimum prices;
- Harmonise EU social legislation at a higher level;
- Reform the directive on “posted workers” which today allows businesses to employ workers with social costs of country of origin;

- Put in place a kilometre tax to favour local produce;
- Impose margin transparency across the food chains;
- Adopt an anti-trust law to avoid up-stream concentration;
- Ensure that the CAP is not subordinated to the EU competition law, according to article 42 of the EU Treaty;
- Regulate investment funds in agricultural production, starting to prevent them from benefiting from public support.
- Etc.

In addition,

Witnessing that the ever-increasing proliferation of bilateral trade agreements, lead to the disappearance of Europe's distinct territories which are the very basis of its local dynamic economies and ecologies;

And,

Conscious of the urgency to respond to the pressing challenges of climate change,

Proposes to create a Working Group on Market Access for Family Farms at European level, with the specific aim to provide a farm policy favouring a more sustainable, healthier and fairer farming sector for Europe.

This Group will in particular contribute to:

1. Early warning systems and rapid response to react to the existing and new marketing and trade agreements being developed, to mitigate their risks to farmer's livelihoods;
2. Agriculture and trade policy proposals that impact positively on rural territories;
3. Research to collect the evidence and data on impacts of the current marketing and trade on European agriculture;
4. Dissemination on market and trade -related issues to the wider community.