



The Value of Biodiversity for Agriculture

How to both promote biodiversity and support the agricultural sector?

4 May 2016

08:00 – 09:30

Members' Salon

European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by

Angélique Delahaye MEP

Chair of the “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” working group of the EP Intergroup on
“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

Biodiversity is a vital aspect of agriculture, as it is the origin of all species of crops and domesticated livestock. Biodiversity and agriculture are therefore strongly interrelated, and agricultural biodiversity performs ecosystem services such as soil and water conservation, maintenance of soil fertility, and pollination, all of which are essential to human survival. In Europe, where technological developments have led to structural modifications in farming practices, increasing pressure has been put on the environment. A whole range of policies has been implemented at the European level to respond to these challenges and ensure biodiversity is protected, such as the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the *Birds* and *Habitats* directives, Natura 2000. Yet, the agriculture sector is vital to the food production of Europe, where the agricultural land accounts for almost half of the territory, and the sector employs up to 25 million European citizens.

In light of the existing policies, their evolution, and future challenges, this event will bring together European policy-makers and different representatives from the agricultural sector to discuss the value of biodiversity in nowadays agriculture, and the need to address the sector's challenges in a sustainable way.

Contact:

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- 08:00-08:05** Welcoming and introduction by **Angélique Delahaye MEP**
- 08:05-08:15** **Mauro Poinelli, Head of Unit “Environment, forestry and climate changes”, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission**
- 08:15-08:25** Perspective of the agricultural sector: **Christiane Möllhoff, Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, COPA-COGECA**
- 08:25-08:35** Perspective of the agro-chemical sector: **Annik Dollacker, Biodiversity Expert Group, European Crop Protection Association - ECPA**
- 08:35-08:45** NGO perspective: **Trees Robijns, Senior EU Agriculture & Bioenergy Policy Officer BirdLife Europe**
- 08:45-09:25** **Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 09:25-09:30** **Conclusions by Angélique Delahaye MEP**



EP Intergroup Climate Change,
Biodiversity & Sustainable Development

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