

“State of play of the plant protection under the EU Green Deal framework”

Paula de Vera
Senior Policy Advisor – Copa and Cogeca

MRL Harmonisation Workshop 2022

25/05/2022

copa***cogeca**
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

copa

european farmers



cogeca

european agri-cooperatives

- Created in **1958**
- **22** million European farmers and family members
- **60** full members from the EU Member States and 36 partner organisations

- Created in **1959**
- **22,000** European agricultural cooperatives
- **35** full members from the EU Member States, 4 affiliated members and 36 partner organisations



In **1962**, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the largest and most active organisations in Brussels for the past **60** years.



Mission

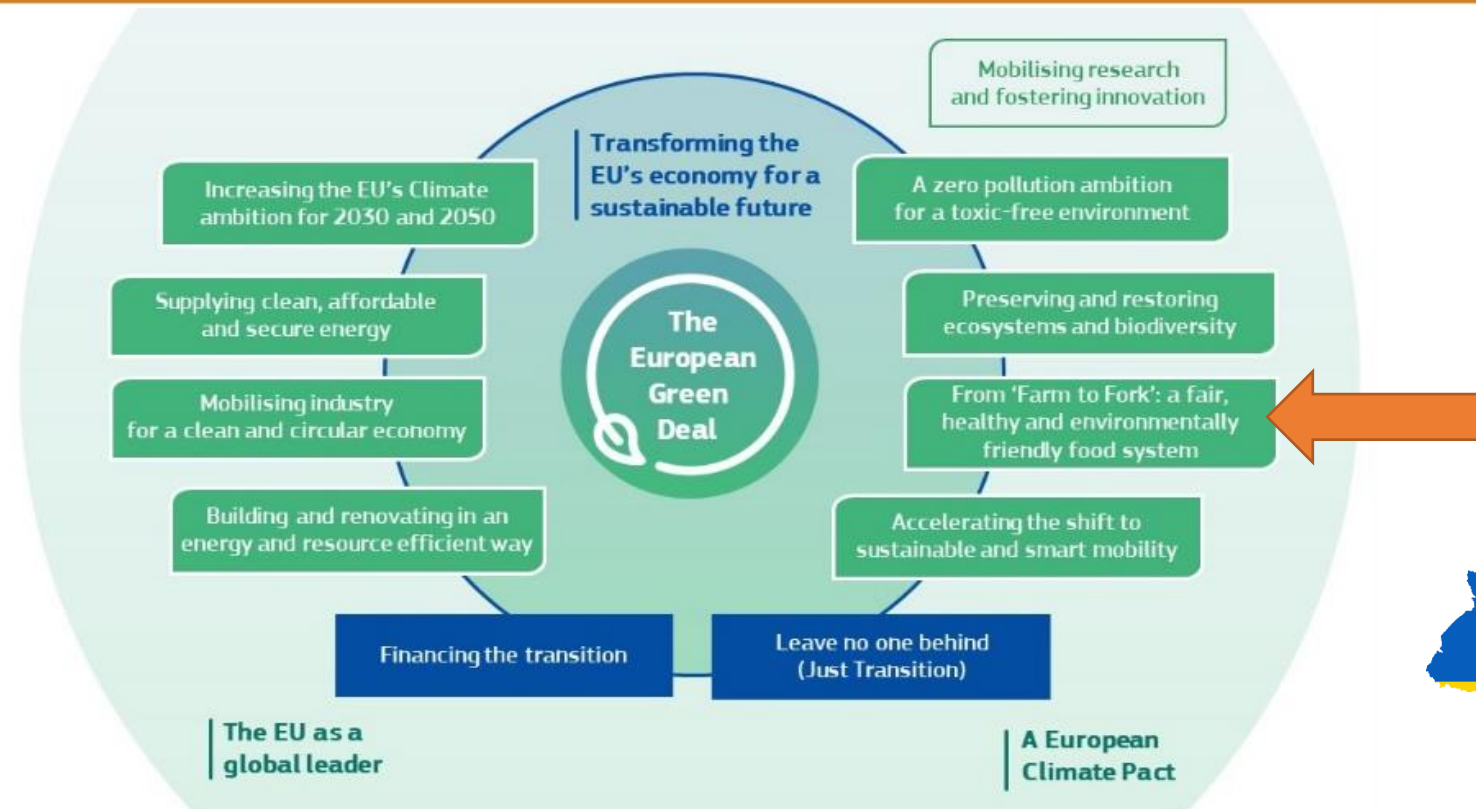
To ensure a viable, innovative, competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.



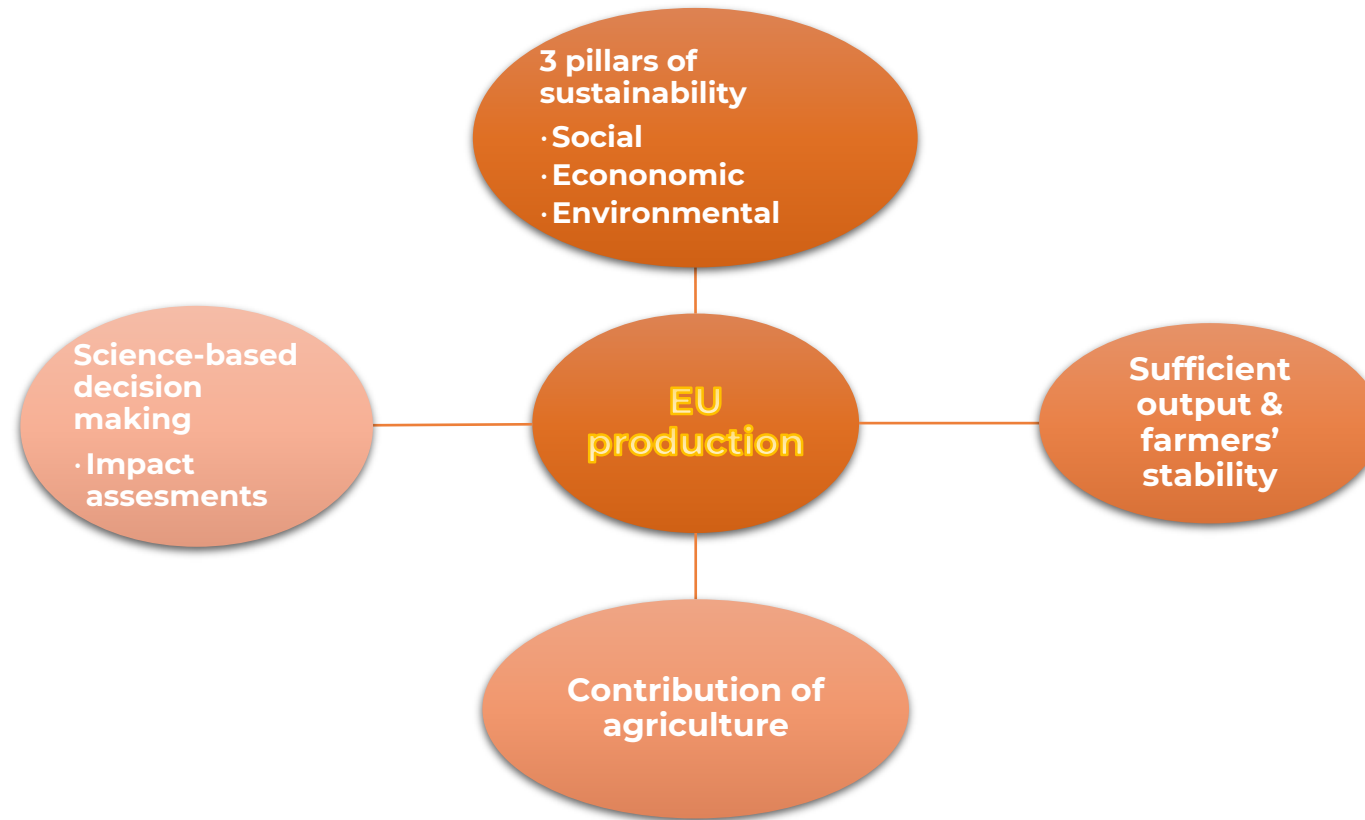
Objective

Promoting European farmers and agri-cooperatives views to **influence** EU decision-making process and public opinion.

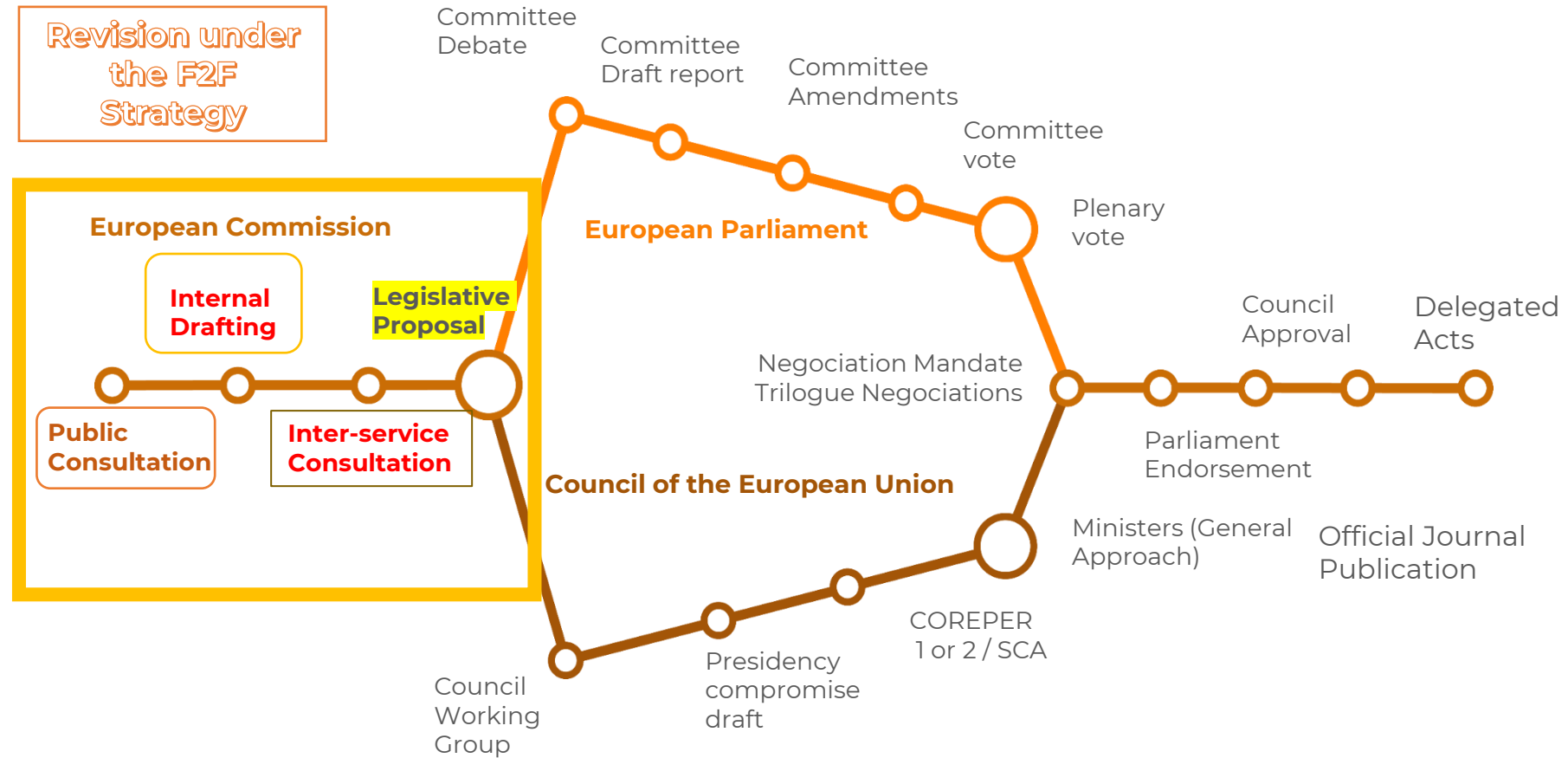
The European Green Deal (GD)



The farmers views on the Farm to Fork (F2F) objectives



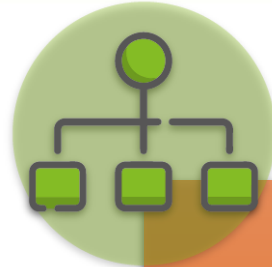
Current status of pesticides legislation in the EU under the GD-F2F scenario



Quick reminder about EU legislation

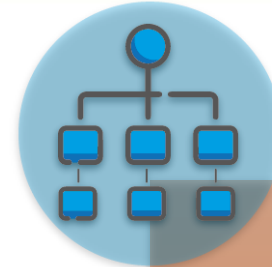
Article 288 TFEU

Regulation
Directive
Decision
Recommendation
Opinion



Regulation

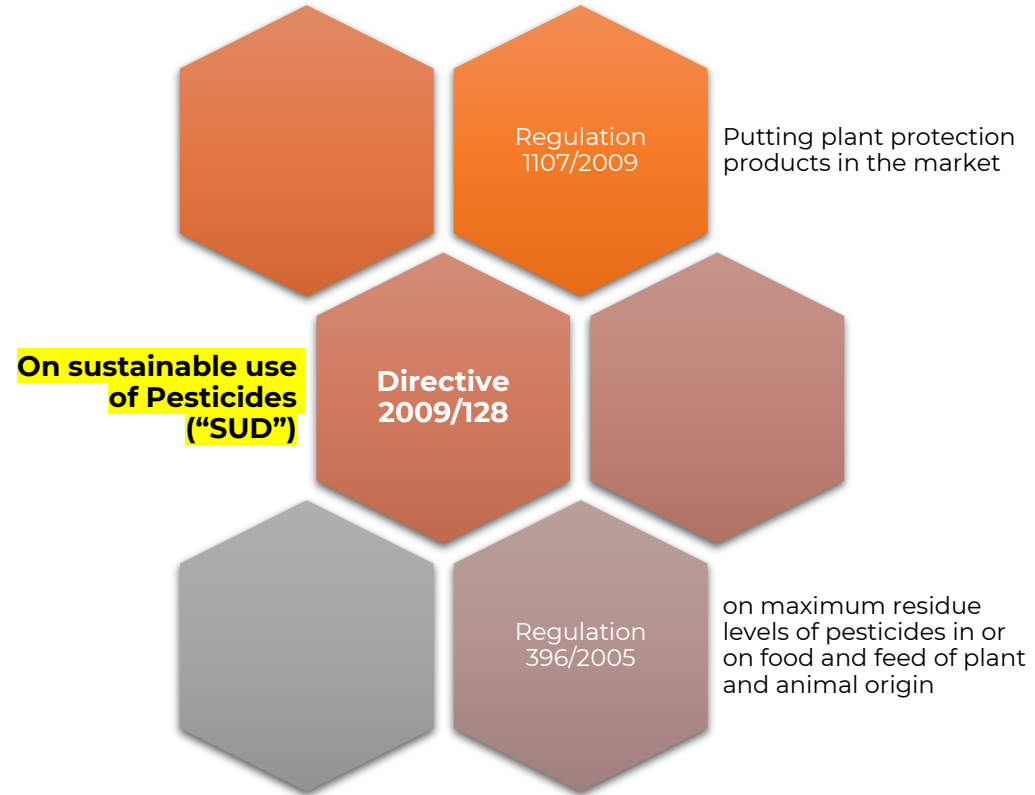
- Binding – EU
- General application
- Does not need transposition to national legislation format – **direct and equal application in all Member States**



Directive

- Binding – MS addressed
- Needs transposition to national legislation format
- MS – **choice of form & methods**

Current plant protection legislation in the EU



Current Commission's work and decision-making process on the future SUD/SUR

- * **Commission adoption & legislative proposal:** planned for Q1 2022 (23 April – **delayed Q2 2022** – 22 June)

* BEFORE:

- * **Public scrutiny:**

- * **Roadmap:** 29 May to 7 August 2020 ([Have Your Say](#))
- * **Public consultation:** 18 January to 12 April 2021 ([EU Survey](#))

- * **European Court of Auditors (ECA):** report in May 2020 about [“Sustainable use of plant protection products”](#).

- * **Workshops organized by the Commission (DG SANTE) with stakeholders:** January 2021, April 2021, June 2021, October 2021.



Potential future proposals for sustainable use of PPPs (tentatively - *Regulation*)

- * Stricter rules to increase coherence for implementation of legislation in the MS
- * Adoption of a (binding) EU-level 50% reduction target for chemicals and hazardous pesticides
- * Adoption at MS level of **binding reduction targets of 50%**
 - * unless an inferior target can be justified by past reductions of use (e.g., historical reductions of use) and risk mitigation actions applied at national level
- * Minimum reduction target 40% (25% previous draft)
- * Expected reduction of yields, increase of prices for consumers and imports
- * Encourage an increased access to non-chemical plant protection tools and uptake of precision farming tools for Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Current needs of EU farmers and cooperatives regarding plant protection

Multiple threats

Protecting EU high standards

Science-based approach

Available, effective, safe, affordable tools ("AESAs")

Alternatives to chemicals

IPM

Long times for approval non-chemicals

Chemicals non-renewed

Toolbox insufficient to fight pests



Speciality crops production in the EU: some general figures



2021:

986K acres (↓
173K acres in 10
years)

6000 M lb (>10%
volume loss since
2016)

European Commission, 2020-2022



2021:

76K acres
(±3K acres >
2020, 3.9% ↑)
142M lb

*International Hop Growers' Convention Data,
2021*



2017:

8.4M acres (F) +
5.44M acres (V*)

2021:

366,000 M lb
(F&V*)

*Eurostat, 2019 (ha data)
European Commission,
2021 (volumen data)*

**Including Horticulture
(flowers, herbs, etc).*

EU farmers needs on Minor Uses

Farmers

Effectiveness

- Production → **Speciality Crops**
- Supplying food:
 - **Healthy**
 - **Nutritious**



Specialisation

Very limited
supply of
options

*Serious
losses*

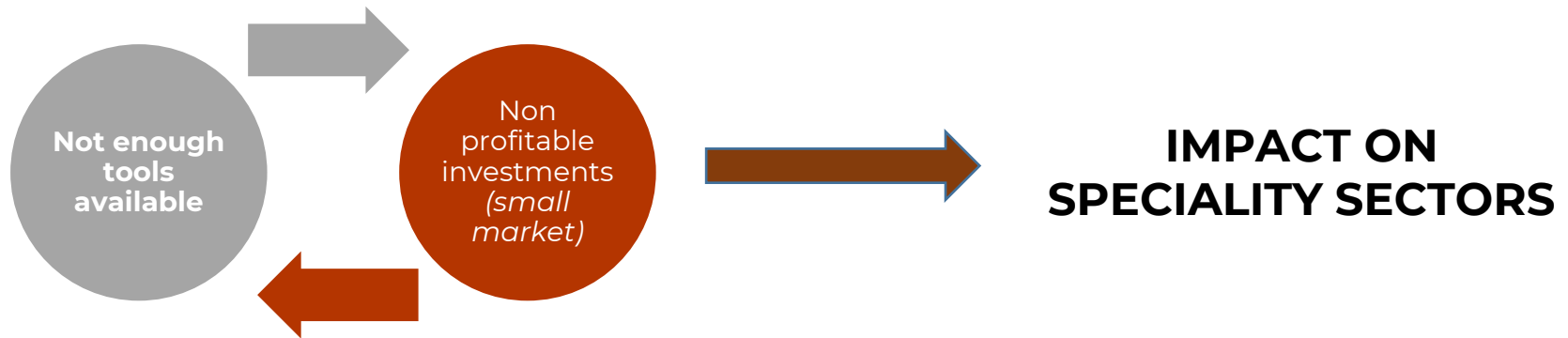
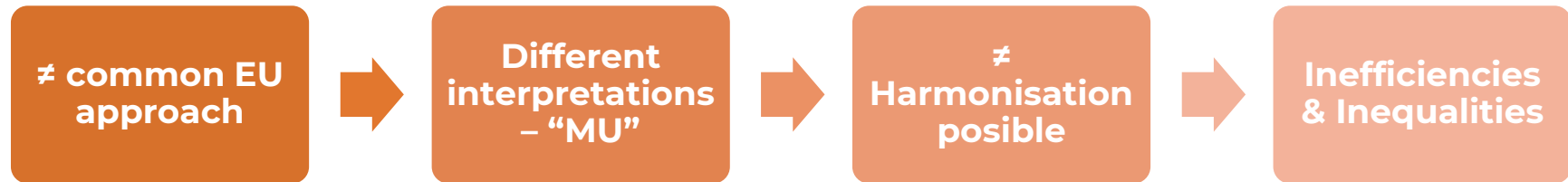
• **Control:**

- Pests
- Diseases
- Weeds

- €
- Yield



What are the bottlenecks for farmers on Minor Uses availability?



State of play of MRLs legislation in the EU

- * No big changes for the moment
- * **French presidency of the Council:** attempt to include it under the new SUR → a Regulation already in place + 6 months French Presidency → feasibility?
- * **Invasion of Ukraine:** closing of cereal markets → needs to import **crops for animal feed** from elsewhere (e.g. Argentina) → request to the Commission to **temporarily** raise MRLs for imports (= import tolerances) for **certain PPPs on certain commodities** (cereals & oilseeds).
 - * **Important:** keep the trade balance as much as possible & guarantee feed supplies for EU livestock.



Our aim for the future

AESA tools

Communication with consumers

Socio-economic
stability

Return of
investment

Contribution to
decision making

Increased
investment on R&I



A man with a beard, wearing a striped shirt and blue shorts, is smiling while riding a large water buffalo. The buffalo is standing in a dry, grassy field with trees and hills in the background under a clear sky. A large orange banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Thank you for your attention !

Paula de Vera
@pauladeveracc1

Paula.devera@copa-cogeca.eu



www.copa-cogeca.eu