



GREENPEACE



Brussels, 6 December 2018

NGOs boycott the Commission's EU Agriculture Outlook conference

Joint statement from BirdLife Europe, European Environmental Bureau, Greenpeace, WWF, Slow Food Europe and Compassion in World Farming:

"We are boycotting the EU Agricultural Outlook conference taking place in Brussels today, in order not to lend legitimacy to a debate and a policy which do not merit it.

The European Commission describes the EU Agricultural Outlook conference as the "key annual gathering of European stakeholders willing to engage and discuss the future of agriculture". Ironically, the Commission is totally ignoring the most fundamental issue facing agriculture: the ecological crisis and the urgent need to transition to sustainable production, with the only discussion on the environment buried in the session on 'Digitisation for EU agriculture and rural areas'.

Representatives of the world's governments have discussed how to deal with biodiversity collapse at this year's UN biodiversity conference in November, and discussions are continuing on how to avoid climate breakdown at the UN climate conference which started this week. Agriculture is the main driver of biodiversity loss in the EU and contributes over 10% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. The EU Agriculture Outlook conference does a disservice to the farmers themselves who are not being helped out of this dead-end model of conventional agriculture but are simply being offered high tech gadgets while the planet burns."

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