

Next-Gen Farmers, Future-Proof Food: food and drink industry backs EU plan for generational renewal

Brussels, 21 October 2025

The European Commission’s Strategy for Generational Renewal in Agriculture is an ambitious and timely step to address the ageing of Europe’s farming population and make agriculture an attractive, viable career for young people.

The food and drink industry, which processes 70% of all EU farm produce, shares the Commission’s goal of supporting the next generation of farmers to ensure long-term food security, sustainability, and competitiveness across the supply chain.

We support the Strategy’s proposals to double the share of young farmers by 2040, boost coordination across governance levels, and the address access to land, finance, skills, and succession. The proposed 6% spending target for generational renewal is a positive signal, and we encourage future frameworks to ensure this ambition translates into tangible results on the ground.

The food and drink industry stands ready to contribute by helping young farmers connect to markets, access innovation and finance, and develop the skills needed to lead Europe’s transition to sustainable agri-food systems. Generational renewal is a shared responsibility; we are committed to playing our part.

Note to the editors

FoodDrinkEurope is the organisation of Europe’s food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector in Europe, a leading employer and a key contributor to the economy (300,000+ companies, 99% SMEs, 4.7 million employees).

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