TRANSFORMING EUROPE’S AGRIFOOD SYSTEM TO MAKE IT MORE SUSTAINABLE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2019 | PARIS

Agreeing on the priorities of the Common Agricultural Policy and making Europe’s agri-food sector more sustainable are amongst the most pressing issues EU policymakers are currently debating. POLITICO’s Agriculture and Food Summit is thus returning to Paris for its third edition to explore the political reforms and digital innovations that have the potential to make Europe’s agricultural and food industry greener and more sustainable.

Building on the success of the previous editions, this high-level event will convene 130+ of Europe’s most influential leaders in food and agriculture to promote a dialogue between policymakers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, consumers and farmers. On the menu, one and half days of dynamic programming serving a mix of interactive sessions, panel discussions and interviews that will be moderated by POLITICO’s top food and agriculture policy journalists.

This year, we are launching a pre-summit focus day on food sustainability during which the entire food chain will be dissected: our speakers will examine how to obtain sustainable commodities as well as reinforce the capabilities of food safety authorities and the role of consumer organizations. The following day, reforms pertaining to the Common Agricultural Policy and the competitiveness of Europe’s agriculture will be discussed, while the impact of research and technological innovations – such as big data and gene-editing – will be debated.

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**PRE-SUMMIT PROGRAMMING – SEPTEMBER 26**

**FROM THE FARM TO THE FORK: TRACKING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD CHAIN PRODUCTION**

2:00 PM   WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

2:30 PM   MASTER OF CEREMONY’S WELCOME REMARKS

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2:35 PM  **JOINT-INTERVIEW**

**Confirmed speakers:**

- José Graziano da Silva, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair, EAT

2:55 PM  **SIMULTANEOUS ROUNDTABLES**

Participants will be able to select one of the roundtables, each of which will be led by a POLITICO journalist and two co-chairs. All co-chairs will then gather on stage for a panel discussion to share issues and solutions raised during the roundtables’ discussions.

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<td><strong>THE CHALLENGE OF SOURCING ETHICAL INGREDIENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SEARCHING FOR THE MISSING ELEMENTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND TRANSPARENCY</strong></td>
<td><strong>CREATING A SPACE FOR CONSUMERS’ DEMANDS</strong></td>
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<td>- How feasible is it for companies to stop relying on commodities, such as soy and palm oil, that have a detrimental effect on the environment?</td>
<td>- Should there be changes to the decision-making mechanisms that determine the safety of our products in the EU and should state representatives and consumer organizations play a greater role?</td>
<td>- Which initiatives have been set up to streamline communication between producers, retailers and consumers?</td>
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<td>- What are the costs and technical challenges in tracing commodities in the food chain?</td>
<td>- Which steps have been undertaken to improve the robustness of food safety authorities across EU member states?</td>
<td>- How can companies protect their brands while at the same time provide accurate information on the composition of their products?</td>
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<td>- Which incentives should be put in place to encourage retailers and public actors to rely on sustainable food practices?</td>
<td>- How should communication and coordination issues, that are often at the root of food safety scandals, be addressed?</td>
<td>- To what extent are consumers the main driving force to promote a different type of production system and tackle issues such as recycling and food waste?</td>
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**Confirmed speakers:**

- André Guimarães, Director, Amazon Environmental Research Institute
- Nicole Polsterer, Sustainable Consumption and Production Campaigner, Fern
- **Confirmed speakers:**
  - Sabine Jülicher, Director for Food and Feed Safety, Innovation, DG Health and Food

**Confirmed speaker:**

- Bogomil Nikolov, CEO, Bulgarian National Association Active Consumers

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3:55 PM  PANEL DISCUSSION: ASSESSING THE ROUNDTABLES’ CONCLUSIONS

The roundtables’ co-chairs will gather on stage to share issues and solutions raised during the roundtables’ discussions and find ways to harmonize the entire food chain to make it more sustainable.

4:55 PM  MASTER OF CEREMONY’S CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 PM  WINE TASTING AND NETWORKING DRINKS

SUMMIT PROGRAMMING – SEPTEMBER 27

THE POLITICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES NEEDED TO FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM

8:30 AM  WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

9:00 AM  MASTER OF CEREMONY’S WELCOME REMARKS

9:05 AM  INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY FOUNDING PARTNER ECPA

9:10 AM  ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW

9:35 AM  PANEL DISCUSSION 1: WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY?

• How will the CAP budget be allocated to support farmers, promote the competitiveness of Europe’s agriculture and ensure its sustainability?
• How is the European Commission’s climate vision of 2050 likely to impact CAP?
• Is CAP the best-suited framework to encourage new entrants to take up farming?

Confirmed speakers:

➢ Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Director-General, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
➢ Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of Policy, BirdLife
10:20 AM   **SPOTLIGHT 1: THE VIEW FROM THE FIELD**

- An interview with two farmers

**Confirmed speakers:**

➢ Nicolas Verschuere, Farmer, Belgium
➢ Ian Pigott, Farmer, U.K.

10:50 AM   **SPEED NETWORKING SESSION**

11:00 AM   **NETWORKING BREAK**

11:20 AM   **PANEL DISCUSSION 2: THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF GLOBAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

- How far are environmental provisions taken into account when setting up new trade agreements? Have these affected the competitiveness of Europe’s agricultural sector?
- What will be the impact of Brexit on the agri-food sector?
- Will the EU foster trade agreements with a greater number of developing countries and how will this affect Europe’s agri-food system?

**Confirmed speakers:**

➢ Nick von Westenholz, Director of EU Exit and International Trade, National Farmers Union
➢ Juergen Voegele, Senior Director for Food and Agriculture Global Practice, World Bank Group

12:05 PM   **SEATED NETWORKING LUNCH**

1:30 PM   **INNOVATION PITCHES: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS**

**Introductory remarks by presenting partner:** Dana Bolden, Vice President of External Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer, Corteva Agriscience

Four individuals will gather on stage and each present a digital tool or social innovation that can address an issue in the agri-food sector and make it more sustainable. The floor will be open to questions and participants will vote to decide which tool/innovation is the most needed.

**Confirmed speakers:**

➢ Lucie Basch, Founder, Too Good To Go, France
➢ Guillaume Fourdinier, Co-founder and CEO, Agricoool
➢ Anna Faucher, President, Let’s Food Cities

2:15 PM   **SPOTLIGHT 2: WHAT IS SO CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT GENE-EDITING?**
• How far has the ECJ’s ruling subjecting gene-edited products to the same regulation as GMOs affected research and innovation?
• Are gene-edited products actually different from GMOs?
• Should some genetic alterations obtained through gene-editing not be considered GMOs?

Confirmed speakers:
➢ Agnès Ricroch, Associate Professor on Plant Genetics, AgroParisTech
➢ Piet van der Meer, Professor, Ghent University

3:00 PM   SIMULTANEOUS ROUNDTABLES

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Confirmed speaker:
➢ André Laperrière, Executive Director, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative

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Confirmed speaker:
➢ Faustine Bas-Defossez, Head of Agriculture and Land Management Program, Institute for European Environmental Policy

4:00 PM   END OF THE SUMMIT AND NETWORKING DRINKS

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