Ref. COMM(23)03635[1]

27/06/2023

Statement

Environment Committee rejects its proposal on nature restoration.

**Copa and Cogeca welcome the decision of the European Parliament’s Committee on Environment to reject its report on the Nature Restoration Law today despite unprecedented pressures and a debate politicised to the extreme. After the rejection by the Committee on Agriculture and then the Committee on Fisheries, this third rejection sends a clear message to the European Commission that it needs to withdraw its initial proposal and present a realistic alternative.**

This is an unparalleled example of a rejection in three separate European Parliament Committees. Members of the Committee clearly saw that this is not about the “if” we need a restoration law but about “how” this law is designed. Currently, under this law, the “how” has not been rationally or realistically thought out.

As explained in an [open letter signed by Christiane Lambert](https://copa-cogeca.eu/Flexpage/DownloadFile/?id=13433285), President of Copa yesterday, the opposition from farming, forestry and fishery sectors do not concern the objective to be achieved. Criticisms focused on an initiative that is poorly constructed, has no dedicated budget and has been the subject of remarkably unproductive consultations between the European Commission and those who will have to put it into practice.

This situation proves the real inability to put this proposal into action on the ground, starting with the total inconsistency between the stated ambition and the proposed funding. We need to get rid of the communication tricks and the outrageous political narrative that surrounded the debate and to clearly see that there is a strong signal from the European Parliament who have tried hard to make this text more acceptable and pragmatic, but it could not work due to the poor state of the original proposal.

Copa and Cogeca call on all MEPs to be consistent and respect the outcome in the committees so that to reject the Commission proposal in the plenary and refer this proposal back to the Commission for a thorough review.

**-END-**

Translations will be available in DE, ES, FR, IT, PL and RO on the Copa-Cogeca website soon.

About us - Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, we ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, while guaranteeing food security for 500 million people throughout Europe. >>> More information [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

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