

IEEP – MEP breakfast briefing

Advancing towards sustainable and resilient food systems - Getting the right policy mix to support sustainable farming practices



Date: 28 January 2025

Time: 8.15–9.30 CET (in person only)

Hosted by MEP Marko Vešligaj (S&D)



Location: European Parliament, Room Spinelli 3H1

The Breakfast Briefing is open to all interested MEPs, APAs and policy advisors, and other stakeholders upon invitation.

A light breakfast will be served from 8:00

[IEEP – Institute for European Environmental Policy](#) organises a series of breakfast briefings for MEPs on European environmental policies. With these events, IEEP wants to create a safe space where MEPs can gain insight on environmental topics relevant to the work of the European Parliament in the coming months. In particular, this meeting will address the following questions:

- What are the farm-level costs and benefits of transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices?
- Is the current policy framework enough to support these transitions?
- What reforms will need to be made to the current policy framework?
- Is there a need for new policy instruments? If so, which kind?

Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
8.15	Welcome	Kaley Hart - Associate Research Director (IEEP – Institute for European Environmental Policy)
8.20	Introductory remarks	MEP Marko Vešligaj
8.30	Presentation - <i>Advancing towards sustainable and resilient food systems</i>	Melanie Muro - Head of CAP & Food programme (IEEP – Institute for European Environmental Policy)
8.45	Reactions from speakers and discussion among MEPs and other	Moderated by Kaley Hart (IEEP) Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP Marko Vešligaj

	participants (Chatham House rule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEP do Nascimento Cabral • Piroska Kallay – Member of the NAT section and president of the permanent group of sustainable food systems of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) • Léna Girard - Manager Agriculture & Economic Affairs, Food Drink Europe
9.20	Closing remarks	MEP Marko Vešligaj
9.30	End of the meeting	

About the event

Whilst all economic sectors will be, and already are, impacted by climate change, agriculture is considered particularly vulnerable. In recent years, the EU output of many key agricultural commodities fell sharply due to widespread droughts and other adverse weather conditions. Building up the resilience of farming systems requires that short- and long-term climate adaptation strategies are implemented at different scales. At the farm level, sustainable cropping practices, i.e., crop sequencing, arrangement, and management techniques, can ensure that arable crop production is robust enough to buffer against current climate risks and adapt to future climatic conditions. Evidence shows that these [practices can potentially maintain and improve the state and function of natural resources](#) that farming relies on, which are systematically degraded by the continued use of conventional methods, such as intensive tilling, leaving soils bare, or high chemical inputs. The recently published report of the [Stakeholder Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture](#) recognises that “farmers [...] need to be systematically supported in the implementation of adaptation measures” and recommends the development of a coherent mix of policies combining incentives and regulatory measures. This will require revisions to the Common Agricultural Policy, and the effective implementation of the Nature Restoration Law and the yet to be adopted Soil Monitoring Directive– as well as, potentially, a revival of the commitments under the Farm to Fork Strategy. New policy tools, such as dedicated transition and nature restoration funds and schemes rewarding farmers for the ecosystem services they deliver are crucial elements of the policy mix needed to transition to sustainable and resilient food systems in the EU.

What is the format of the event?

- PowerPoint presentations & Q&A session - Chatham House rule discussion
- Post-event: downloadable PowerPoint with voiceover on IEEP’s website & briefing note

Key documents – Recommended reading

- [Increasing climate change resilience through sustainable agricultural practices \(IEEP 2024\)](#)

- [Towards climate-friendly and resilient agri-food systems in Central Eastern Europe \(Ecologic Institute, IEEP, Ricardo 2024\)](#)
- [The costs and benefits of transitioning to sustainable agriculture in the EU – a synthesis of existing knowledge IEEP \(2024\)](#)
- [Securing greater environmental and climate performance from EU agricultural funds \(IEEP 2024\)](#)
- [Exploring policy options for funding nature restoration in the next MFF \(IEEP 2023\)](#)

For more information about the event, please contact IEEP events officer, Marianna Lianantonaki, at events@ieep.eu