



REIMAGINE FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A Strategic Summit on the Narratives that Shape Our Reality

European Parliament | Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)
Brussels, 4-5 June, 2025

*“We are working towards a new consensus on the future of agriculture.
A consensus to replace the current polarisation”*

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

The year 2025 presents an unprecedented opportunity to drive meaningful change in global food and agricultural policy, trade, and development. As economic, environmental, and political dynamics evolve, food systems are increasingly at the heart of broader geopolitical and socio-economic transformations. Challenges—ranging from climate change and food insecurity to economic instability, trade uncertainty and geopolitical uncertainty—are reshaping the global landscape, necessitating a fundamental shift in how we approach them. With the European Commission's *Vision for Agriculture and Food* unveiled and negotiations on the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) underway, we have a critical chance to reshape food systems for greater resilience, sustainability, and competitiveness. Addressing these issues requires urgent, coordinated action, as food systems play a critical role in achieving broader SDG objectives, driving economic growth, alleviating poverty, and ensuring social stability worldwide.

Against this backdrop, the Strategic Summit is part of a broader initiative to overcome the current gridlock in food systems' discussions by moving beyond polarisation and outdated narratives that no longer address the needs of stakeholders across the value chain. By reframing food and agriculture as strategic priorities for food security, climate resilience, economic stability, and global cooperation, the summit will facilitate a pragmatic, solutions-oriented dialogue. Bringing together 60 leading thinkers it will challenge outdated assumptions and develop forward-looking solutions that can drive the transition towards more resilient, competitive, and sustainable food systems.

The Summit is founded on collaboration and shared expertise, with strategic governance and strong partnerships across sectors ensuring its success and long-term impact. To this end, the agenda is co-created through a dynamic, evolving process, developed in collaboration with an Expert Steering Committee of specialists who provide strategic guidance and oversight.



PROGRAMME

June 4, 2025 – Opening Evening

18:00 – 21:00 | Opening Gala and Dinner at the European Parliament

In partnership with the European Food Forum

Welcome Address

- **Stefan Köhler MEP**, *Chair of the European Food Forum, EPP European Parliament*
- **Maria João Rodrigues**, *Chairwoman of Board of Re-Imagine Europa, President of the European Foundation for Progressive Studies (FEPS)*
- **Carmen Crespo Díaz MEP**, *Chair of the Committee on Fisheries and VP Coordinator for Agriculture EPP European Parliament, Member of the European Food Forum*

Closing Address

- **Paolo de Castro**, *Member of the Board of Re-Imagine Europa, former Italian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies*

June 5, 2025 – Strategic Summit

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 – 09:10 | Welcome Address

- **Professor Godelieve Laureys**, *President of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)*
- **Erika Staël von Holstein**, *Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa*

Opening Remarks

- **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the Strategic Summit*



THEME 1: Understanding the Challenge – The Realities of Food & Agriculture Today

09:10 – 10:30 | **Opening Plenary: The Future of Food & Agriculture in a Changing World**

Marble Hall, Palace of the Academies

Keynote Remarks:

- **Ana Rodríguez Castaño**, *Secretary General for Agricultural Resources and Food Security, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain*

Panel:

- **Maira Dzelzkaleja Burmistre**, *Vice-Chairwoman, Latvian Farmers Parliament*
- **Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle**, *Director for Strategy & Policy Analysis, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission*
- **Casper Holl**, *Strategic Change Manager, Rabobank*
- **Lise Korsten**, *President of the African Academy of Sciences, Co-Director of the Department of Science and Innovation, Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Pretoria*

THEME 2: Navigating the Transition – Solutions for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

10:30 – 12:00 | **Breakout Sessions: Rethinking Agriculture for the 21st Century**

Session A: Rethinking Agricultural Policy – A New Vision

Stevin Hall, Palace of the Academies

Chair: **Maria Teresa Bucu**, *Senior Public Affairs Manager, Novo Nordisk Foundation*

Thought starters:

- **Marco Contiero**, *EU Agriculture Policy Director, Greenpeace*
- **Nelli Hajdu**, *Managing Director, Starch Europe and Primary Food Processors*
- **Alan Matthews**, *Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy, Trinity College Dublin*
- **Bernard Valluis**, *President, European Food Banks Federation (FEBA)*

Session B: Reframing Climate: Toward a New Language for Action

Lipsius Hall, Palace of the Academies

Chair: **Erika Staël von Holstein**, *Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa*

Thought starters:

- **Sandrine Dixon-Declève**, *Honorary President, Club of Rome and former UN Food System Summit Resilience Task Force Co Lead14*
- **Katarzyna Kowalczevska**, *Expert in Agriculture and LULUCF Integration, EEA*
- **Elina Bardram**, *Director for Adaptation and Resilience, Communication, and Civil Society Relations, DG CLIMA, European Commission*
- **Mario Scharfbillig**, *Science for Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission*



Session C: Innovation at the Crossroads – Technology, Sustainability, and Agriculture's Competitiveness

Quetelet room, Palace of the Academies

Chair: Oana Dima, *Science Policy Manager, VIB-UGent Center for Plant Systems Biology, EU-SAGE Executive Manager*

Thought starters:

- **Dirk Inze**, *Emeritus Professor at Ghent University and former Science Director at VIB*
- **Urs Niggli**, *President, Institute of Agroecology*
- **Ivan Stefanic**, *EIC Programme Manager for Food Chain Technologies and Novel & Sustainable Food, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)*

12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch

Theme 3: Charting the Future – Real Solutions for Food & Agriculture in a Changing World

13:00 – 14:15 | Plenary: Beyond Polarisation – Designing the Future of Food & Agriculture

Marble Hall, Palace of the Academies

Panel:

- **Christel Delberghe**, *Director General, EuroCommerce*
- **Karin Guendel-Gonzalez**, *Managing Director, Bayer Crop Science Germany*
- **Will Surman**, *Deputy Director-General & Director for Strategic Communications, Public Affairs and ESG, FoodDrinkEurope*
- **Justin Zahra**, *Senior Director, EU Agriculture Program, Environmental Defense Fund*

14:15 – 15:45 | Break-out Sessions - Concrete Solutions for a New Agricultural Model

Session A: Building a “Toolbox for Farmers” – Digital, AI, and Knowledge Infrastructure for Agriculture

Stevin Hall, Palace of the Academies

Chair: Erika Staël von Holstein, *Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa*

Thought starters:

- **Claus Felby**, *Senior Vice President, Novo Nordisk Foundation*
- **Valentina Jug**, *Digital Agricultural Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)*
- **Laurent Tits**, *Team Leader Agriculture, VITO Remote sensing*



Session B: Shifting Geopolitics and Chronic Food Fragility: Rethinking Development and Multilateralism for the Future

Lipsius Hall, Palace of the Academies

Chair: Claus Haugaard Sørensen, Senior Advisor on Resilience, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, European Commission and former Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, ECHO

Thought starters:

- **Leonard Mizzi**, *Head of Unit – Sustainable Food Systems & Fisheries, DG INTPA, European Commission*
- **Jan Rielaender**, *Head of Resilient and Sustainable Development Strategies Division, OECD Development Centre*

Session C: Biotech in a Changing World – Narratives, Vision, and Strategic Leadership

Marble Hall, Palace of the Academies

Thought starters:

- **Damian Boeselager MEP**, *Vice-Chair, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Greens/EFA - Volt, European Parliament*
- **Giulia Del Brenna**, *Head of Unit for Textiles, Food and Retail, DG GROW*

15:45 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:30 | Final Plenary: A Roadmap for Action – From Vision to Implementation

Marble Hall, Palace of the Academies

Panel:

- **Nevena Alexandrova**, *Lead for Policies, Systems and Foresight, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)*
- **Claus Felby**, *Senior Vice President, Novo Nordisk Foundation*
- **Heather Grabbe**, *Senior Fellow, Bruegel*
- **Garlich von Essen**, *Secretary General and CEO, Euroseeds*

17:30 – 17:45 | Closing Address

- **Maria João Rodrigues**, *Chairwoman of Board of Re-Imagine Europa*

18:00 – 19:00 | Cocktail Reception

Marble Hall, Palace of the Academies



Expert Committee

Chair: Paolo De Castro, *Member of the Board of Re-Imagine Europa, former Member of the European Parliament, former Italian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies*

Maria Teresa Buco, *Senior Public Affairs Manager, Novo Nordisk Foundation*

Luisella Ciani, *Director General, European Food Forum*

Marco Contiero, *EU Agriculture Policy Director, Greenpeace European Unit*

Maira Dzelzkaleja-Burmistre, *Vice Chairwoman, Latvian Farmers Parliament*

Heather Grabbe, *Senior Fellow, Bruegel*

Daniel Kaiser, *Senior Science Policy Officer, All European Academies*

Godelieve Laureys, *President of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB)*

Tine Lund-Bretlau, *Expert on Strategic communication on Climate Change, European Environment Agency*

Alan Matthews, *Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy, Trinity College Dublin*

Andrzej Nowak, *Chief Narrative Scientist and Professor of psychology, University of Warsaw, and Florida Atlantic University*

Urs Niggli, *President, Institute of Agroecology*

Meghan Sapp, *Director for Advocacy and External Relations, European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture (EARA)*

Justin Zahra, *Senior Director of EU Agriculture Program, Environmental Defense Fund*