

**Commission:** Council of Ministers of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

**Subject:** European strategy to strengthen EU agricultural sovereignty while stimulating sustainable production methods

**Author:** Germany

Since February 2023, the current government of Germany has been led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who took office in December 2021. Scholz's government is a coalition of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Green Party and the Liberal Democrat (FDP), which was formed after the 2021 federal election.

In terms of a European strategy to strengthen EU agricultural sovereignty while stimulating sustainable production methods, the European Union has worked to implement the Farm to Fork strategy, which is part of the European Green Deal. The strategy aims to make the EU food system more sustainable, healthier and more resilient, while supporting EU farmers and rural communities. Increasing organic farming and improving animal welfare. Promote the use of local and regional food systems.

Concerns that Germany raises, relate to the strategy of an increase in food prices. It is appropriate, as the European Union has done since the 1960s, to offer our populations quality food at reasonable prices. European agricultural policy cannot, according to Germany, result in the precautionary introduction of organic food reserved for the social elites in parallel with low-cost food for the working classes. The European Green Deal will only succeed if the 27 countries move forward in compliance with current agricultural practices which are still very dependent on the support of industries.

Reduce the cost of food for working-class consumers. Protecting low-income European consumers, who may not be able to pay the higher prices, is our priority for the next few years.

All these economic and social challenges will have to be carefully addressed in order to ensure a fair and equitable transition towards more sustainable food production practices without undermining the level of consumption of the most disadvantaged populations.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. CAP reform: Germany has been actively involved in reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to make it more environmentally friendly and socially just.

Germany supports sustainable farming practices that aim to reduce the environmental impact of farming without harming consumers' purchasing power.

- Encourage organic farming: Germany has set itself the goal of increasing the share of organic farming to 20% by 2030, we will devote a significant part of our own agricultural budget to this.
- Reduce food waste: Germany has set a target to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.
- Germany suggests that its European partners sets the same objectives at the Community level.
- Promote healthy and sustainable diets: Germany promotes healthy and sustainable diets through initiatives such as the "Nutrition Circle" programme. Encouraging sustainable food production and consumption:

Germany supports the development of sustainable food production and consumption systems by promoting local and regional food systems, reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers and promoting the use of renewable energy sources in food production.

Promotion of agroecology prioritizing the well-being of farmers and communities.

Setting targets and objectives: EU agricultural sovereignty.

Policy and program development: funding research and development of sustainable farming methods ensuring fair prices for farmers.

Climate-smart agriculture: Germany could support the development and adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, which involve adapting to and mitigating climate change. This could include

promoting the use of cover crops, crop rotations and agroforestry to improve soil health, reduce erosion and sequester carbon.

Rural development: Germany could invest in rural development initiatives to support the well-being of farmers and rural communities. This could include improving access to health care, education and social services, as well as promoting cultural and tourism activities that can generate income and support local economies.

In conclusion, Germany has played and will play an active role in this ambitious project for the next few years. Germany is determined to build a more sustainable and resilient food system.