

R2 Towards an agroecological Europe by 2030

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Agenda item: 4. Resolutions

Motion text

1 The cultivation of the Earth along with forestry activities has been vital for
2 our survival as humankind. Unfortunately, the continuous push for the
3 industrialization and globalisation of the world's agriculture and food supply
4 systems threatens the future of humanity and the natural world, which are deeply
5 interconnected. The Covid-19 pandemic and the trade implications of the war in
6 Ukraine have made more visible the vulnerabilities of food systems across the
7 globe that are not able to ensure a sufficient and healthy diet for everyone. In
8 Europe, the hegemonic agro-industry model developed in the last decades has
9 entailed a reduction in crop diversification, a depletion of soil and
10 biodiversity, and the pollution of aquifers and water reserves due to the use of
11 synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, along with antibiotics in animal farming.
12 The exploitative labour conditions in agriculture of migrant workers, mainly in
13 southern Europe, are also part of this model, a region which is the most
14 vulnerable of the continent to desertification and the sustainability of any
15 form of agriculture in the following decades.

16 Jointly addressing the challenges of sustainable food for the European and world
17 population, the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources and the
18 response to climate change requires a profound transition of our agricultural
19 and food system. A shift towards an agroecological paradigm based on the
20 phasing-out of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers, and the redeployment of
21 extensive grasslands and landscape infrastructure would allow these issues to be
22 addressed in a coherent manner. In this sense, there is a wide scientific
23 consensus in the capacity of agroecology to nourish all Europe and to nourish
24 all people better, expressed in the reports of the Food and Agriculture
25 Organisation (FAO) and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food,
26 Olivier de Schutter. A step from the status quo is needed to put the health of
27 people and ecosystems first than the interest of the big landowners and seed
28 producers in agro-industry, a shift that has to be ensured from political
29 institutions. Hence, it is not just about rigorous ecological and social
30 standards, but about transforming the way food is produced, distributed and
31 consumed, giving room for local knowledge and food sovereignty, and the

32 **functioning of food systems as a source of shared prosperity.**

33 **To generalise organic agriculture is not enough, we can see it in the**
34 **greenwashing made by agri-business by meeting the minimum requirements for their**
35 **production to be labelled as “organic” but not making significant changes in the**
36 **way food is produced and distributed. In addition, we need a structural change**
37 **in a situation where consumption patterns are still far from meeting a diet that**
38 **is within planetary boundaries, marked by an overconsumption of meat and ultra-**
39 **processed food that damages the health of the people and the planet. We have to**
40 **overcome the false dichotomy between prioritising nourishing the whole world and**
41 **ensuring long-term sustainability of the soil: both are possible under**
42 **agroecology, improving public health and making possible the mitigation and**
43 **adaptation to the climate crisis. Under agroecological principles, farmers and**
44 **peasants are agents of change, carrying out ecosystem services along with the**
45 **production of healthy, organic and accessible food through short supply chains**
46 **that ensure food security and are the materialisation of food sovereignty. The**
47 **projects rooted on the social and solidarity economy such as cooperatives, food**
48 **hubs and local associations should be the engine of these transformations.**

49 **For all these reasons, the Federation of Young European Greens makes a call to**
50 **all political entities across Europe to create a legal and policy framework that**
51 **fosters the up-scaling of agroecology, urgently transitioning to agroecological**
52 **food systems by 2030 while ensuring a just transition, through the following**
53 **measures: t**

- 54 • **Facilitate the rapid abandonment of the use of pesticides and synthetic**
55 **fertilisers, phase-out bioenergy crops and vegetable protein imports,**
56 **increase the share of legume crops in rotation, redeploy natural**
57 **grasslands and extend agroecological infrastructures (hedges, trees,**
58 **ponds, stony habitats). A cut in funds from intensive farming to redirect**
59 **them to agroecological initiatives is also key.**

- 60 • **Decrease support to reductionist agricultural research and increase**
61 **investments in public research on agroecology and organic farming,**
62 **creating Agroecological Living Labs and learning hubs. Transitioning to**
63 **agroecological systems needs a life-long learning, transdisciplinary and**
64 **multistakeholder approach, in formal and non-formal education and**
65 **research. Agricultural sciences curricula should be transformed into**
66 **agroecological curricula. Additionally, educating on the benefits of**
67 **agroecology in rural areas to empower youth initiatives should be a**
68 **priority of educational policies, increasing the visibility of**
69 **certification programs in agroecology, exchanges of good practices and**
70 **networks of support and knowledge.**

- 71 • Rethink the relation between urban and rural societies and territories,
72 taking into account the interdependence between cities and ecosystems. We
73 need to create an alliance based on short supply chains with surrounding
74 territories, as indicated by the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. To link
75 transformative production and consumption initiatives is essential for the
76 up-scaling of agroecology.
- 77 • Aim for the objective of 100% organic, local or fair trade products by
78 2025 in public restoration with vegetarian and vegan options everyday.
79 Entities of the social and solidarity economy should be prioritised and
80 supported by public administrations through this policy and other measures
81 designed at all political levels. The relocalization of production through
82 agroecological initiatives and the progressive increase in the ecological
83 and social requirements of public purchase are central to reach this goal.
84
- 85 • Agroecological laws at all legislative levels should be enacted to ensure
86 a just transition from conventional agriculture to agroecology (up-scaling
87 agroecology). Some Latin American countries have been pioneers in this
88 kind of legislation, such as the case of Uruguay in 2018.
- 89 • At the EU level, we demand the taxation on imported commodities whose
90 methods of production do not comply with the EU environmental standards.
91 This is particularly important in the sector of protein crops, where the
92 ban on imported soya in the EU could phase out synthetic fertilisers
93 responsible for high greenhouse gas emissions and close the nitrogen cycle
94 at the finest territorial level. A redesign of the Common Agriculture
95 Policy is needed in order to put small and medium organic and
96 agroecological practices at the centre of public support, to ensure just
97 prices for local producers, reduce the distance food travels between
98 production and consumption and minimise food waste, while increasing the
99 ambition and reshaping the goals of the Farm to Fork strategy.
- 100 • Develop European, state-level as well as local and regional programs to
101 facilitate access to land for all and especially for youth through Land
102 Banks, for instance, in the form of council land redistribution. This
103 would generate new job opportunities and rural development and promote
104 safe and decent working conditions and wages. A gender perspective has to
105 be integrated in all the measures taken, as well as mechanisms to ensure
106 equity for ethnic minorities.

107 **To European civil society:**

108 • FYEG supports the [Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter](#) and any other
109 organisation or movement working in the lines of an agroecological
110 transformation.

111 • We make a call to join forces in the advocacy and action towards a truly
112 sustainable food system that places the health of people and the planet
113 over profit, a transformation in the food system that cannot wait if we
114 want genuinely resilient territories for the decades to come.

Reason

We need to envision the concrete steps towards a food system that really protects and puts the health of the people and ecosystems over profit. The agroecological paradigm, representing a step forward from organic production, reflects this transition and sets a challenge for the following years and decades if we want liveable places in Europe, mostly in the most vulnerable countries to desertification in Southern Europe, but also a more just food regime globally.