

Report on the Third Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Christophe Hansen, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food

Title of Youth Policy Dialogue: An EU Strategy on Livestock

Date: 17 September 2026

Location: European Commission Representation in Ireland, Europe House, 5
Balfe Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Introduction

The 3rd edition of the Youth Policy Dialogue with the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen took place on 17 September 2026 at the European Commission Representation in Ireland in Dublin.

This edition focused on the future of the EU livestock sector and, in particular, on the challenges and opportunities faced by young livestock farmers and the role of generational renewal. The dialogue took place in the context of the EU Strategy for Livestock, adopted on 7 July 2026, and aimed to gather young people's experiences, concerns and concrete ideas to inform its implementation.

Twenty-three young people with backgrounds in farming, food and rural areas took part in the event. Participants came from across the European Union, with a particular focus on Ireland, allowing the discussion to reflect both the diversity of the EU livestock sector and the realities faced by young people at national level.

This year's edition was organised in connection with the [95th National Ploughing Championships \(NPC\)](#), one of Ireland's flagship agricultural events. On 16 September, participants had the opportunity to visit the NPC in Scraggan, Tullamore, including the [EU stand](#). This provided participants with an additional practical setting for exchanges ahead of the Policy Dialogue.

The programme on 17 September was divided into two main sessions: a preparatory morning exchange with DG AGRI staff and the afternoon Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Hansen. The discussions were facilitated by moderators Ann Van Damme and David Weingartner.

Summary of the Youth Policy Dialogue

SUMMARY OF THE MORNING SESSION – from 8:30 to 12:45

The morning session set the stage for the dialogue with Commissioner Hansen, allowing participants to get to know each other, exchange views and prepare their key messages for the afternoon discussion.

Alba Barrutieta (DG AGRI, Unit B.3) presented the [EU Strategy for Generational Renewal in Agriculture](#), focusing on its objectives, the main barriers faced by young farmers, and recent updates on its implementation.

Carlos Martin Ovilo (DG AGRI, Unit E.3) then introduced the [EU Livestock Strategy](#), highlighting its relevance for young farmers and framing the main areas for discussion.

Participants then worked in groups focusing on three areas: generational renewal and access to resources; competitiveness, sustainability and resilience; and European territorial diversity, with a particular focus on Ireland. They identified key challenges and possible solutions at EU and national level, before developing practical recommendations to bring to Commissioner Hansen in the afternoon.

SUMMARY OF THE AFTERNOON – from 14:00 to 16:00

The afternoon session opened with remarks by Commissioner Hansen, followed by the presentation of the key recommendations developed by participants during the morning session. Three participant representatives presented the main outcomes from each thematic discussion, providing the starting point for the dialogue with the Commissioner.

The exchange continued in an open and interactive format, with participants sharing their experiences, questions and proposed solutions directly with Commissioner Hansen.

MEP Maria Walsh joined the dialogue as a special guest, reflecting on the issues and recommendations raised by participants and bringing the perspective of the European Parliament into the discussion. She then joined Commissioner Hansen in the exchange with participants on the challenges and opportunities for generational renewal in the livestock sector.

The session concluded with participants reflecting on the day's exchanges, followed by closing remarks from Commissioner Hansen and MEP Walsh.

Main takeaways and next steps

The main takeaways from the discussion are reflected in the policy recommendations raised by participants. These recommendations highlighted the following key priorities:

- **Strengthening farmers' income resilience**, including through effective risk management tools and mechanisms to better manage market, climate and other production-related risks. Participants also stressed the importance of greater stability and predictability, both in farmer's incomes and in the regulatory framework.
- **Improving access to finance**, in order to facilitate the investments needed to modernise farms, strengthen their resilience and competitiveness, and support the transition towards more sustainable production systems.
- **Strengthening animal disease prevention and control**, including by making appropriate use of vaccination, while considering whether the categorisation of certain animal diseases remains fit for purpose in light of evolving scientific knowledge and disease-management approaches.
- **Promoting producer cooperation**, including through producer organisations and other forms of collective action, as a means of strengthening farmers' bargaining position, resilience and competitiveness.
- **Supporting generational renewal** through an inclusive and intergenerational approach, addressing structural barriers to entering and remaining in farming while also recognising the role of older generations. Participants highlighted the importance of knowledge transfer between generations, appropriate social and financial support for older farmers, and measures to improve the overall attractiveness of farming.
- **Improving the attractiveness and sustainability of rural areas**, including through access to essential services. Participants stressed that generational renewal and the long-term sustainability of livestock farming also depend on the wider conditions for living and working in rural areas.

These priorities are already reflected in the **EU Strategy for Livestock**, notably through the actions set out in its Annex, while several are also addressed through actions under the **Strategy for Generational Renewal**. The dialogue therefore provides an opportunity to build on the Strategies' existing frameworks, in particular the Livestock Strategy, and to further engage with young farmers on the implementation of the relevant actions and on the identification of practical next steps.

Annex

Annex 1. Photo gallery



Visit to the National Ploughing Championship, 16 September 2026.



Commissioner Christophe Hansen and MEP Maria Walsh with participants at the close of the 3rd Youth Policy Dialogue, 17 September 2026.

Youth Policy Dialogue – 17 September 2026



Outcome of the discussions from the three working groups on: generational renewal and access to resources; competitiveness, sustainability and resilience; and European territorial diversity, with a particular focus on Ireland.



