



# Food Security, Climate Protection and Social Justice in EU Agriculture

*A dialogue on the future of land use, justice, and the Common Agricultural Policy*

**Monday 22.Jun, 16.00-18.00**, Hosted by MEP Manuela Ripa

*European Parliament, Brussels – Altiero Spinelli Building, Room 5F385 (with [Webex livestream](#))*

## Program

16.00 **Welcome words**, by Filipe Martins, JESC Director and ELSiA's board member

16.05 **Opening remarks**, by hosting MEP Manuela Ripa (EPP, Germany)

16.10 **Presentation of the study “[Food security, climate protection and biodiversity: ethical perspectives for global land use](#)”**, by Dr Stefan Einsiedel (Researcher of the Zentrum für Globale Fragen / Scientific Secretary to the Expert Panel)

16.30 **Contribution from different stakeholders**

- **The young farmers' perspective**, by Sophie Utner, MIJARC Europe
- **The environmental approach**, by Théo Paquet, EEB-European Environmental Bureau
- **The political implementation**, by Thomas Waitz (Greens/EFA, Austria)  
*other MEPs to be confirmed*

17.00 **Q&A with participants** (for online participation: Slido.com [link](#) or #2519180)

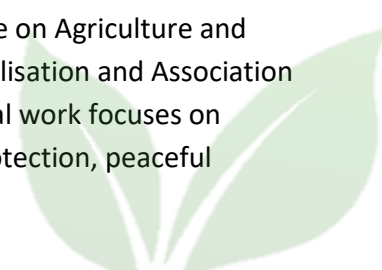
17.30 **Conclusion and networking coffee**

## Hosting MEP

[Manuela Ripa MEP](#) is a German lawyer and Member of the European Parliament for the Ökologisch-Demokratische Partei (ÖDP). She has served as an MEP since 2020 and, in the current parliamentary term, sits with the European People's Party (EPP) Group. She is a member of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) and the delegation for relations with Mercosur (DMER), and a substitute on committees including Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), Public Health (SANT), and Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM). Born in Saarbrücken, she studied law at Saarland University and gained professional experience in European and international policy, including at the European Commission, the German Foreign Office, the European Court of Justice, the European Parliament, the Federal Ministry of Health, and the Saarland Representation to the EU. Her political priorities include environmental and climate protection, animal welfare, consumer protection, circular economy and sustainable European policy.

## Speakers

[Thomas Waitz MEP](#) is an Austrian Green politician, organic farmer, forester and beekeeper, and a Member of the European Parliament for Die Grünen. Born in Vienna in 1973, he has represented the Austrian Greens in the European Parliament since 2017, with a renewed mandate from 2020. In the current Parliament, he sits with the Greens/European Free Alliance group and is a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI). He also chairs the delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (D-ME) and is active on Western Balkans issues. His political work focuses on small-scale and ecological agriculture, animal welfare, climate and environmental protection, peaceful foreign policy and a greener European Union.



[Dr. Stefan Einsiedel](#) is a biologist and economist specialising in sustainability ethics, environmental ethics and socio-ecological transformation. He works at the Munich School of Philosophy, where he focuses on environmental ethics, environmental education and questions of global justice. His academic work connects ecology, economics, philosophy and Catholic social ethics, with particular attention to sustainability, poverty, participation and democracy. His doctoral research engaged with Amartya Sen's capability approach and Pope Francis' social and ecological thought. Before his academic career, he worked for several years in the finance sector. He also contributes to public reflection on climate, biodiversity, food security and land use.

[Théo Paquet](#) is Senior Policy Officer for Agriculture at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), where he works on EU food and farming policy, especially the Common Agricultural Policy. His work focuses on promoting sustainable, fair and resilient agricultural systems that protect biodiversity, climate and rural livelihoods. He is part of the EEB's Agriculture and Food team and contributes to policy advocacy on agroecology and environmental standards in European farming. Théo holds an MSc in Biotechnology from the University of Edinburgh and an MSc in Development and Rural Innovation from Wageningen University, in the Netherlands. Before joining EEB, he worked on agriculture and renewable energy policy.

[Sophie Utner](#) is a German environmental and youth advocate active in sustainability, rural youth participation and ecological policy engagement. She serves as a Board Member and Legal Representative of MIJARC Europe, a European movement representing rural Catholic youth. She studied Environmental and Business Economics at Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld and has worked on themes such as climate justice, sustainable consumption, youth participation and environmental responsibility. She has also been involved in the Catholic rural youth movement KLJB Mainz, including in leadership roles.

## Moderation

[María Cordero-Fernández](#) is a researcher in agroecology and a PhD student at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), affiliated with the ULB Agroecology Lab. Her work focuses on agrobiodiversity, agroecological transitions and the social dynamics that sustain traditional farming systems. She has researched how farming communities maintain crop diversity through seed exchange, knowledge sharing and local practices, especially in Andean contexts. Her academic interests connect food security, biocultural heritage, rural livelihoods and social justice. Before her doctoral work, she was linked to the University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp (USCIA) and participated in JESC's European Leadership Programme (ELP).

## Organised by

The [Jesuit European Social Centre](#) (JESC) is a Jesuit organisation based in Brussels that promotes social justice, ecology and European responsibility, bringing catholic and ignatian values into European debates. JESC focuses on areas such as environmental justice, food systems, intergenerational fairness, ecological transition, leadership and European affairs. JESC collaborates with church and Jesuit institutions, NGOs and EU-level actors, helping connect grassroots realities with European policy discussions.

The [European Laudato Si' Alliance](#) (ELSiA) is a Brussels-based network of Catholic organisations working to bring Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* to life in Europe. Founded in 2019, it promotes integral ecology, ecological justice and Catholic Social Teaching, especially in dialogue with EU institutions and European civil society. Its members include organisations such as JESC, Caritas Europa, CIDSE, COMECE, the Laudato Si' Movement (LSM), Justice and Peace Europe and Don Bosco International, Pax Christi International and New Humanitas/Focolare Movement. ELSiA works through three main dimensions: eco-advocacy, eco-praxis and eco-spirituality, connecting policy action, sustainable lifestyles and ecological conversion.