

Press Release

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DBV calls for a fundamental change of course on the EU nature conservation package

Rukwied: This policy urgently needs to be revised

(DBV) The German Farmers' Association continues to see a fundamental contradiction to the current global challenges of food security in the EU Commission's proposals for the Nature Restoration Law and for reducing the use of plant protection products (Sustainable Use Regulation) which were presented at the end of June.

Joachim Rukwied, President of the German Farmers' Association, said at a DBV press conference: "The EU Commission's proposals to cut the use of pesticides by 50 % across the board and to increase set-aside would lead to a significant reduction in Europe's self-sufficiency and a substantial increase in the need for imports. This would not only jeopardize Europe's own security of supply and political stability - it would also further exacerbate the food situation in countries of the global South. This policy urgently needs to be corrected. Last but not least, the war in Ukraine also dramatically demonstrates that supply security cannot be taken for granted."

Farmers' President Rukwied emphasizes that protecting the environment, climate and biodiversity remains high on the agenda of German farmers. "Our farmers have already significantly reduced the use and risks associated with the use of plant protection products in the past and are making numerous contributions to environmental protection and nature conservation. However, increased set-asides and across-the-board reduction targets are neither target-oriented nor responsible in times of global supply crises," Rukwied continued.

Background: On 22th June 2022, the EU Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on a "Nature Restoration Law" with binding targets for restoring nature in various ecosystems - especially on agricultural and forestry land - with the goal of implementing restoration measures on at least 20 percent of EU land and marine areas by 2030 and on all damaged ecosystems by 2050. The Commission also published a proposal for a regulation to reduce the use and risk of synthetic chemical plant protection products, which includes a general reduction target of 50 % for the use of plant protection products with regard to quantity and risk, a sub-target of 50 % reduction for "particularly hazardous" active ingredients, as well as a general ban on the use of pesticides in protected areas. The measures are designed to implement the Green Deal and the biodiversity strategy.

Autor	Deutscher Bauernverband
Rückfragen an	DBV-Pressestelle
Telefon	030-31904-240
Anschrift	Claire-Waldoff-Str. 7, 10117 Berlin
Copyright	DBV
E-Mail	presse@bauernverband.net
Homepage	www.bauernverband.de
Twitter	@Bauern_Verband
Facebook	@DieDeutschenBauern