RE: Cogeca application for the selection of members of the EU Biodiversity Platform

Dear [Name],

Hereby, Cogeca submits their application for the selection of members of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for the Environment’s expert group the “EU Biodiversity Platform”.

Cogeca represents the interests of over 40,000 agricultural cooperatives, which employ some 660,000 people across Europe. The members of the organisations affiliated to Cogeca are cooperatives whose own members are actively engaged in farming, forestry, and other primary activities. Farmers and foresters are the main managers of Europe’s precious biodiverse ecosystems; and as such are those closest to the ground when the goals and ambitions for the EU Biodiversity Strategy are being discussed.

Cogeca already provide a framework of cooperation, knowledge sharing, and discussion on how to further improve agriculture’s association with Europe’s biodiverse habitats and ecosystems, and the species found within. Continuously Cogeca’s membership have been involved in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the CGBN grouping, the European Commission’s Civil Dialogue Group on Environment and Climate, and through participation in the Nature Directors’ Meetings; working alongside stakeholders on a national and European level in order to improve European biodiversity in a meaningful way.

Discussions within the EU Biodiversity Platform shall focus on the monitoring improvements; financing of biodiversity rejuvenation; the governance of Europe’s biodiversity priorities; the implementation of concrete solutions for biodiversity recovery; and evidence-based policymaking, all of which would benefit from the expertise of agriculturalists on the ground-level who experience these issues first-hand. Cogeca aim to be of assistance to the Commission in making sure of a clear, coherent, and coordinated implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy in order to ensure that its development is constructive and harmonious for humans and nature both.

The diversity of our expertise, the geographical scope and the direct link with those directly impacted on the ground are the main elements that motivate us in applying for this Expert Group. Cogeca can ensure an active participation and high level of expertise in all foreseen meetings of the future expert group and we are looking forward to contribute to its success.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions or need any clarification.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Cogeca | European Agri-Cooperatives