

## New partners for a new type of agriculture

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- *Stimulating employment*
- *Improving production*
- *Reinforcing professional qualifications.*

*“How can these objectives be fulfilled?”*

The objective of the conference was to introduce the new dynamic of the European Organisation of Agricultural, Rural and Forestry Contractors (CEETTAR) to Community institutions, social partners and members of the European Parliament. It was also necessary to debate the proposals of CEETTAR in light of amendments to the CAP.

Agriculture can no longer limit itself to the production or sale of food; similarly, the CAP can therefore no longer limit itself to agricultural enterprises, while ignoring agriculture's partners both in its traditional activities and new tasks. Ultimately, it was important to demonstrate that agricultural contractors are partners in their own right for a new type of agriculture and cannot be ignored in any discussion of the Common Agricultural Policy.

In fact, the agricultural contractor sector, at the junction between agriculture, services and industry, is not usually recognised or consulted on all the factors affecting these activities. This leads to marked differences and therefore harmful distortions of competition between countries in terms of VAT rates, road or industrial safety regulations, company statutes, tax status, etc.

At the end of the conference, the Director of CEETTAR, Mr. Eddy KLÖCKER, drew the following key conclusions:

1. An additional appeal must be submitted to the European Parliament, Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Commission, as well as employer and employee organisations, in order to involve ARCs as rapidly as possible in debates concerning European agriculture.
2. At social dialogue level, it will be necessary to follow up and intensify links with the sectorial partners of agriculture in order to ensure greater involvement for CEETTAR.
3. As part of civil society, CEETTAR must help to forge links between players in the socio-professional sector.
4. Its programme is a credible and forward-looking political initiative, which will be relayed to all the relevant institutional levels, both at national and European level.

5. Through this conference, agricultural contractors have taken an additional step towards the effective and complete recognition of their profession.