

12th annual EU conference on EAFRD financial instruments

Investment needs and financial instruments for EU agriculture and bioeconomy: 2028 - 2034

14 & 15 October 2026 - Lisbon, Portugal



Programme

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

19:00 – 22:00 **Networking evening cocktail**

Rooftop Suspenso

R. Alexandre Herculano 50, 10th floor, 1250-011 Lisbon, Portugal

Thursday, 15 October 2026

Language: *English, with simultaneous interpretation from and to French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.*

08:30 – 09:00 *Registration and welcome coffee*

Hotel Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa

Av. da Liberdade 185, 1269-050 Lisbon, Portugal

09:00 – 09:05 **Introduction**

Lisa Burke, Moderator

09:05 – 09:30 **Welcome and opening statements**

Elisabeth Werner, Director-General, DG AGRI, European Commission (video message)
José Manuel Fernandes, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Portugal (video message)
Gemma Feliciani, Director, Financial Institutions Department, European Investment Bank

09:30 – 09:40 **Progress with CAP financial instruments for agriculture and looking forward**

Gijs Schilthuis, Director, Directorate B “Sustainability”, DG AGRI, European Commission

09:40 – 10:50 **CAP reform and future financial instruments for farmers under NRP Plans**

Policy debate on future financial instruments under NRP Plans and ECF support for agriculture

Gijs Schilthuis, Director, Directorate B “Sustainability”, DG AGRI, European Commission
Paula Rodríguez Andreu, Deputy Director for Rural Development Promotion
Directorate-General for Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food Training
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain

Hilke Thordsen, Head of Legal affairs, development banks, fiscal policy, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany

Luís Bruno Dimas Fernandes, Director-General of the Office of Planning, Policies and General Administration, Ministry of agriculture and fisheries, Portugal

Idalino Leão, Vice-president COGECA, COPA-COGECA and President of CONFAGRI (Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives of Portugal)

Diana Patrascu, Head of Sustainable Finance Unit, European Investment Fund

Panel discussion and Q&A

10:50 – 11:20 *Coffee break*

11:20 – 12:30 **Blending of resources, sustainable benchmarking and EIB offer to agriculture**

Blending of resources and achieving impacts

Possibilities for combining CAP/EAFRD/EU budget with EIB financing and national resources to support farmers' growth and development

Frank Lee, Head of Advisory Financial Institutions Division, European Investment Bank

Vanessa Hurtado, Business Development Officer, Crédit Agricole, France

Maria Beatrice Mencacci, Head of Financial Instruments Unit, ISMEA, Italy

Panel discussion and Q&A

Sustainable benchmarking by financial organisations for EU agriculture

Policy framework and results of the most recent fi-compass study on benchmarking with practical examples applied in agricultural practice by EU Banks, e.g. Rabobank's support for diary sector and Swedbank's support agriculture / crops for Baltic.

Gijs Schilthuis, Director, Directorate B "Sustainability", DG AGRI, European Commission

Balazs Podmaniczky, Financial Instruments Advisor, European Investment Bank

Nicoline van Gerrevink, Head of Food System Transition, Rabobank

Artur Leemet, Head Corporate Financing Sales Support and Partnership, Swedbank

Presentations, panel discussion, and Q&A

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 14:15 **Testimony from a Spanish Young Livestock Farmer**

The story of a new livestock farmer from Catalonia

Laia Angrill Perelló, Young farmer, Catalonia, Spain

14:15 – 14:50 **New and Innovative Agricultural Financial Instruments**

Capital rebates for farms' technological development

Marko Boljat, Head of Department for Financial Instruments, Ministry of Agriculture, Croatia

Financial instruments for agriculture in Estonia

Helin Anton, Head of Regional Competitiveness Unit, Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture, Estonia

Presentations and Q&A

14:50 – 15:10 *Coffee break*

15:10 – 16:10 **Investment gaps and financial needs in the EU Agri-Food-Tech industry**

EU Agri-Food-Tech investment report: funding, investors' policy priorities and trends
Presentation of the newest EAFRD fi-compass Agri-Food-Tech investment report and survey results

Louisa Burwood-Taylor, Head of Media & Research, AgFunder

Ryan Lee, Investment Associate, AgFunder

Investing in Tomorrow's Food System: Driving Food Security, Resilience and Inclusive Prosperity across the Value Chain

Panel moderator: Céline Lévy, Investment Manager, European Investment Fund

Olaf Koch, Partner, ZINTINUS, Germany

David Bowles, Managing Partner, The Yield Lab

Sara Marquart, Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer, Planet A Foods, Germany

Leandro Sabignoso, CEO and Co-Founder, Auravant, Spain

Panel discussion and Q&A

16:10 – 17:00 **Investment needs in EU agriculture and financial mechanisms for farmers' integration in the EU agri-food value chains**

Presentation of the most recent EAFRD fi-compass study on the financing of the EU agri-food value chains

Hans Kordik, Research Expert, Ecorys

Case-studies of successful value-chain financing mechanisms and integrated approaches

Functioning and financing of selected EU value-chain productions such as: Parmigiano Reggiano cheese (Italy), Pig production (Spain) and Common wheat and wheat flour (France)

Manuel Esteve Lombarde, President of white pork sector, Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de España, Spain

Cristian Bertolini, Head of Supply Regulation Planning, Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano Reggiano, Italy

Presentations and Q&A

17:00 – 17:10 **Closing words**

Gijs Schilthuis, Director, Directorate B "Sustainability", DG AGRI, European Commission