

## **DONAU SOJA: Timmermans calls for more urgency to tackle biodiversity crisis**

The public must increase pressure on policy makers to protect biodiversity, argues European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans. "If we're brutally honest, we have to admit that, in the general public, the biodiversity crisis does not have the same sense of urgency as the climate crisis or the COVID crisis," says Timmermans at a Friends of Europe roundtable (<https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-environment/news/timmermans-calls-for-greater-urgency-to-tackle-biodiversity-crisis/>). The EU needs a new form of agriculture. "We will need concrete plans, and we will need the whole value chain to be part of this," says Timmermans.

Matthias Krön, chairman of the organisation DONAU SOJA, supports Timmermans: "Agriculture and food in Europe must and can become much more colourful, we need more diversity on the field and on the plate. By growing soya in Europe, we are improving the biodiversity and nitrogen balance of European agriculture and we are reducing the pressure on sensitive overseas ecosystems."

"DONAU SOJA stands for the European protein transition. Instead of anonymous quantities of soya from sensitive overseas ecosystems, Danube Soya promotes the direct relationship between farmers, processors and producers in Europe. At the same time, DONAU SOJA promotes a balanced diet with more plant elements and thus a comprehensive renewal of our agricultural and food system."

"An important instrument for the promotion of soybean cultivation in Europe are the quality standards DONAU SOJA / EUROPE SOYA. They make an important contribution to overcoming the biodiversity crisis through the protection of species-rich ecosystems, requirements for good agricultural practice and strict regulations on the use of pesticides. DONAU SOJA is currently in the process of further improving its standards, and the bar is also being raised continuously in the important area of biodiversity protection."

"DONAU SOJA is making its contribution to climate protection. A current study by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) shows how CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from meat production can be reduced with DONAU SOJA-certified animal feed. Pork with soya from overseas causes 3.42 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per kg meat, with DONAU SOJA feed 2.16 kg CO<sub>2</sub> – a minus of 40 percent! Above all, changes in land use, i.e. the conversion of grassland or woodland into arable land, cause large quantities of greenhouse gases. DONAU SOJA stands for the preservation of valuable ecosystems as a contribution to biodiversity and climate protection. Biodiversity is a global challenge. DONAU SOJA stands for a colourful, balanced and future-friendly turnaround in agriculture", says Matthias Krön, Chairman of DONAU SOJA.

### **For further questions:**

Axel Grunt  
DONAU SOJA Communications  
+43-680-2379245  
[presse@donausoja.org](mailto:presse@donausoja.org)