

Committee: Environment

Question: Eco-farming

Country: France

One of this committee's first goals is to progressively reduce industrial agriculture, by promoting a more eco-friendly agricultural system. France totally supports the various measures taken so far to "fight" against industrial agriculture, and is ready to commit to its necessary reduction and thus, reduce the global amount of pollution, just to mention this aspect of the problem.

Every country takes today its own measures to change its approach of agriculture, and its technics, considering now the domain in a more ecological and sustainable way than ever. France is absolutely conscious of the importance of the issue; it's one of the most developed countries in the EU, and it is very preoccupied by its chronically alarming levels of pollution, not to mention the consequences of climate change...

Today, France is coping with industrial farming problems, among which "La ferme des mille vaches" could probably be the most iconic example. This industrial farm -and it's of course not the only one- consists of massive bovine exploitation in order to produce dairy products and meat at a very low price. This agricultural model is now being rejected by an increasing part of the population, who denounce the bad treatments inflicted to the cattle, what they consider as being methods from other times and an unacceptable form of "animal cruelty". To put an end to the numerous abuses that have been committed and reported these last months and years, a law has been recently adopted, the 12th of January 2017, obliging the slaughterhouses to be equipped with cameras.

Let's remind here that in France, animal rights are extremely contradictory: according to the Civil Code, article 524: "Animals and objects which the owner uses for service and exploitation are properties". However, according to the Rural Code, article L.214-1: "Every animal is a sensitive being whose owner must take care of and offer it favourable conditions for its well being". And these contradictions are of course not only present in France, but in many other European countries such as Spain, for instance.

It is time for France to consider new eco-friendly initiatives, by following some steps Nordic countries have already put into practice, such as Denmark, for example. The French Republic is willing now to invest more money in the eco-farming system and start reducing industrial agriculture, since it does not generate so good benefits and pollutes our environment. Also, the food qualities are much worse in products that come from industrial agriculture, and the possible repercussions on our citizen's health are still uncertain, not to say unknown. One of the considered solutions has been agroecology, which is the application of ecology to the design and management of sustainable agroecosystems. It is essentially based on the use of renewable resources, and minimizing toxins. This solution is thought to be possible today, in a developed country such as France.

As a conclusion, we would just like to remind that France is more than ever committed to the protection of the environment and the development of a more ecological agriculture. And we are going to follow the best steps to make France a more eco-friendly country and improve the quality of our products. We are convinced it will boost our economy along with helping with problems such as pollution and destruction of non renewable resources. We hope that many other countries will feel concerned by this global issue, and that we will be able to find common solutions to a common problem.