

—

**GEOPA-COPA CONTRIBUTION TO
THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE
FUTURE STRATEGY “EU 2020”
COM(2009)647 final**

—

GEOPA-COPA CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE STRATEGY “EU 2020” COM(2009)647 final

Geopa-Copa, "Employers' Group of the Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union", is mandated by Copa (European farmers) to represent the employers of agricultural salaried workers to the Community authorities and the organisations of agricultural salaried workers in the European Union so as to defend the specific interests of the employers in the social area.

In accordance with this mandate, Geopa-Copa would like to make the following points:

The European Union must:

Encourage Member States to put provisions in place for "job security" consisting of assisting workers from the time they leave the school system until retirement so as to avoid any breaks in between: flexibility in working hours, remuneration for short time work, paid training during times of unemployment, reorientation of workers rendered unfit for work for medical or age reasons or due to technological developments, organisation of job mobility. In order to facilitate the geographic mobility of agricultural workers within Europe, the Commission must support the 'Agripass' project, initiated by the Social Dialogue Committee for the agricultural sector.

Harmonise policies for preventing accidents in the workplace and professional diseases, which must not be penalised by competition between insurance companies, set up a European observatory to compile harmonised statistics regarding professional accidents and diseases and distribute details on good practices.

Social security contributions vary from one country to another and this creates unfair competition for the sale of agricultural produce. In order to create a social Europe, harmonising these contributions is advisable.

Encourage Member States to promote social dialogue and bipartite negotiations of collective conventions, especially in the newer Member States. The Lisbon Treaty awards increased importance to social dialogue on a European level. It is paradoxical that in 2010 the Commission reduced the funds allocated to the sectoral Social Dialogue Committees. This dialogue can only develop if social partners are able hold preparatory seminars and joint consultation and negotiation committees on a regular basis.