Diane Mitchell of the National Farmers’ Union (NFU) will participate in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour. The integrated approach to the nitrogen problem is the focus of this study tour, which takes place from 23 to 25 November. What are the expectations of this participant from the United Kingdom?

In what way are you (professionally) active in the field of Nitrogen deposition?

“The NFU is an agricultural trade association in England and Wales. I am the Chief Environment Adviser of the National Farmers’ Union. In a previous role at the NFU, I was responsible for the development of our policy on areas such as Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (now known as the Industrial Emissions Directive) and liaised with government and the environmental regulators in its introduction in England.”

Agriculture and environment

“One of the biggest challenges over the next few years will be to find ways in which farming can continue to produce high quality food and protect the environment. We need to, and can, do both.”

What are your expectations of participating in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour?

“I am interested in participating in the tour because I would like to understand how the Netherlands balances different priorities and whether there are any lessons learned that we could take back to the UK. I am particularly interested in how the Netherlands balances priorities between a progressive and growing agricultural sector and also protecting and enhancing the environment.”
Diane Mitchell is the Chief Environment Adviser of the NFU. More recently, she has followed the European Commission’s review of its Thematic Strategy on Air Quality and subsequent publication of its revised strategy, the Clean Air Policy Programme, in December 2013. On behalf of the NFU, she has been actively involved in the recent discussions on the revisions to the National Emission Ceilings Directive. In addition, she is the Vice Chair of the COPA-COGECA\(^1\) Environment Working Group and liaises closely with other COPA members on policies such as air quality but also biodiversity and water quality policies.

\(^1\) the umbrella organisation representing farming unions in Europe, [http://www.copa-cogeca.be/](http://www.copa-cogeca.be/)