

A horizontal banner image showing a close-up of various agricultural products, including what appears to be blueberries and other small fruits, in a field setting.

Technological solutions for sustainable agriculture

1st June 2016

EU report on Technological Solutions for sustainable agriculture in the EU gets strong backing from Agri-Food Chain coalition

The report on “Technical solutions for sustainable agriculture” drafted by MEP Anthea McIntyre, and already endorsed by the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee (COMAGRI), received strong backing by the Agri-Food Chain Coalition (AFCC) at a dinner debate in Brussels on 31 May, just days before the final vote in Strasbourg next week.

The AFCC welcomed the initiative of MEP Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK) and called for consistent EU policies to unlock the potential of innovation in Europe’s agri-food sectors to maintain its position as a world leader. *“This is a very important report at a time of a deep farming crisis with low commodity prices. Strengthening innovation is key to improve the situation of farmers, agricultural input industries, traders and food companies alike,”* Garlich v. Essen, Chair of the AFCC, underlined in his opening remarks.

In her speech, MEP Anthea McIntyre highlighted that competitiveness, economic growth and jobs are the potential benefits of an innovation-friendly and supportive political and regulatory environment in Europe. *“Innovation and sustainability are mutually supportive rather than competing policy objectives,”* McIntyre pointed out during the further discussion which specifically focused on what hinders concrete implementation of pro-active policies and corresponding rules that may help industries and farmers to overcome obstacles.

Some key issues and challenges addressed by the report include precision farming, big data and informatics, soil, water and nutrient management, as well as precision