

Grüne Woche 2020

Partner country: Croatia

Official opening on Thursday evening | The culture of agriculture



Dr. Christian Göke, CEO of the Messe:

- Welcome
- 1800 stands from more than 60 countries
- Grüne Woche gives a huge boost to exports
- The exhibition lasts 10 days, first two days exclusively for stakeholders and after two days open for other visitors as well

Dr. Bernhardt Poll, on behalf of the municipality of Berlin:

- It is the trade fair for agriculture and food
- Attention to the problems in the world such as the fires in Australia and the hottest year ever.
- Last Friday there was also a big demonstration demanding more attention for nature.
- Citizens mainly think of short term goals and that is why we must regulate the environment and animal welfare through taxes.
- Agriculture must change in line with what the environment demands.
- The Grüne Woche is where the discussion should take place.
- There is little agriculture in Berlin, but we do have a policy. Because we do consume a lot of food in this city. The most important points for attention are
 - o more organic and healthier food, with more attention to animal welfare that is sold at a fair price.
 - o spending more money on food banks.
 - o more organic and regional product will be eaten in schools
 - o starting programs in the field of waste.



Dr. Wolfgang Ingold, Chairman of the Federal Association of the German Food Industry

- Foods are means to live and must therefore be responsible.
- Countless entrepreneurs are innovative and increasingly taking responsible actions. These entrepreneurs deserve respect.
- As entrepreneurs we make our products as healthy and environmentally conscious as possible. Transparency and openness are most important.
- We are always searching for the optimum: economic and ecologically.
- Market organisation is often in the way, consumers must be made aware. We really want to help with that.

Joachim Rukwied, Chairman of the German farmers' organizations

- There is a lot going on in Europe; farmer protests, Brexit, uncertainty. It is a huge race. The farmers are insecure and that has consequences for the families and the situations at home. Let's talk together, conduct the dialogue and let's not talk about prosperity. We want a progressive future. Especially for our young farmers. As farmers, we want to be taken seriously and have a future perspective. Politics must offer that to us.
- The Grüne Woche is the platform to discuss this with each other. There are many ministers here from many countries, so this is the moment, let's use that moment.
- We want a green agricultural policy, however the policy including the subsidy must continue to exist. We want to cooperate with Timmermans on the green deal, but there must be something in return. Trade must remain open. We want to have open standards, so we can be better in trading. We are in favour of biodiversity and would like to do that in a cooperative cooperation with nature organizations. Politics must make this possible.

- Consumers will have to pay more for sustainable and animal-friendly products. Especially those who can afford it. If you can't afford it, we do not expect you to pay more, but all the others who can afford should do it!
- We want constructive dialogue, we want to further develop agriculture, we want future perspectives for the next generation. Take this outstretched hand. Offer us perspective so that the farmers continue to exist and continue to invest in agriculture.

Janusz Wojciechowski, EU Commissioner for Agriculture

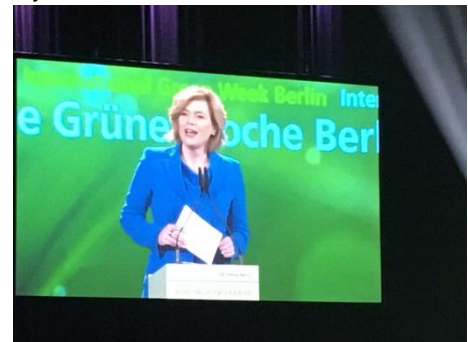
- The EU green deal is an important challenge for farmers, but it also offers plenty of opportunities, certainly for the farmers. There will also be a budget for farmers to implement the green deal. The Grune Woche can promote agriculture and gives attention to innovation, showing it as well.
- The farmers are responsible for safe food for all Europeans. We have lost 4 million farmers in the past year. 1000 farmers quit their job every day. This cannot continue. I want to do everything to help farmers, as I was raised in a farming family myself. I know the farmer's emotions from my childhood. But I also understand that farming will have to be climate friendly.

Marija Vučković, Minister of Agriculture in Croatia

- She is also very enthusiastic about Timmermans' Green Deal.
- The goal is to produce organic and healthy products in our country. We do this for 90% with family farms, often small farms. We produce for our own residents, but also for our tourists. They are very important for Croatia. Especially the German tourists.
- We regard those small families of farms as the backbone of Croatian agriculture. We make many high-quality products in Croatian, such as meat and cheese. They can also be tasted here on the Grune Woche.

Julia Klockner, Minister of Food and Agriculture in Germany

- The Grune Woche is the largest agricultural fair in the world. It is the farmers who ensure that our tables are full of food. We must look ahead to a modern agriculture with digitization and innovation.
- We also need to feed the people who are hungry now. More food must therefore be produced. We cannot afford any trade conflicts. Agriculture plays a major role in the green deal. We have to spend the agricultural money from the EU on solutions and innovations in line with the Green Deal.
- Agriculture is in the spotlight, everyone talks about it. The farmers take care of our daily food and our culture, everyone depends on it in a direct way. We need agriculture and farmers. Let us not panic, but collaborate with the agricultural ministers in the EU and give the future a positive twist. Offering farmers a perspective for the future. Of course, there are many issues but we will have to solve those together, in order for young farmers to have perspective. Arable land belongs in the farmers' hands.
- Note framing and moralistic gestures, we should not do that. Above all, we must also talk about what improved in agriculture in recent years: fewer pesticides, more intelligent training, new crop protection products, application of CRISPR-CAS.
- The consumers have a duty as well. They have enormous demands. They have more and more knowledge of food and more money to spend. They can assure that a farming family receives the money they deserve and need. Ecology, economy and social must go together. We, consumers, have to spend more money on food, and only buy what is necessary. A large-scale stakeholder dialogue is desirable.



The opening was graced with folkloric music from Croatia.