Dear colleagues please find below a quick summary of the meeting between the Commissioner and Crop Life Europe (formally the ECPA), which was held this morning.

Niall

Meeting objective: Contributions ECPA industry can make towards the Commission’s objectives on the Green Deal and Farm 2 Fork

Present: Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski; Jorge Pinto Antunes; (ECPA) Livio Tedeschi; Geraldine Kuntas, Kamil Ochmianski

Summary

- Commissioner outlined the work that had been finalised since the adoption of the F2f strategy, including the Commission Communication “Recommendations to the Member States as regards their strategic plan for the Common Agricultural Policy” (COM(2020) 846 final of 18.12.2020). The Commissioner highlighted industry would be an important partner in the realisation of these objectives.
- ECPA outlined its transition from the 1st of January to “Crop Life Europe” and that it would now represent 22 company members and 32 national associations in the area of digital and precision farming, plant biotech innovation and bio pesticides, which it is hoped would bring a lot to the green deal strategy, including a 10 billion investment in precision farming, 4 billion in bio pesticides, the training of 1 million farmers in IPM and best practice farming, and a circular economy through the facilitation of the removal of used pesticide containers.
- The ECPA acknowledged the need for transparency and need to publish progress with the above targets. However, they also stressed the need for complementary actions from the Commission, including that the pace of new tech introduction needs to keep pace with the removal of old tech (withdrawal of PPPs from the market).
- In reply to questions on how PPP and organic targets had been set and impact of the CAP on the F2f, the Commissioner highlighted the need to maintain food security and economic security of farmers and that farmers would be incentivised under the different CAP pillars 1 & 2 and that precision farming would be an important element of Eco schemes. He also stressed the need for balance and that the F2f targets should be set nationally and reflected in each Member State’s individual CAP strategic plans. The Commissioner also touched on the need for a level playing field for farmers with regard to imports.
- The ECPA welcomed the Commissioners comments and indicated that they were currently preparing an impact assessment on F2f proposals, which they would make available as soon as it is prepared. They also emphasised the need to maintain global trade and not erect barriers.