

Is Europe changing course?

What's driving seed policies and regulations
in the EU today?





Is Europe changing course?

SAA, Iguazu Falls, 29.09.2025



2019





The EU response: a real “Green Deal”

- - 55% CO2 emissions
- - 50% pesticides
- - 30% fertilizer (N)
- - 10% productive area
- + 18% organic farming (25%)



= **a brave, green new world!**

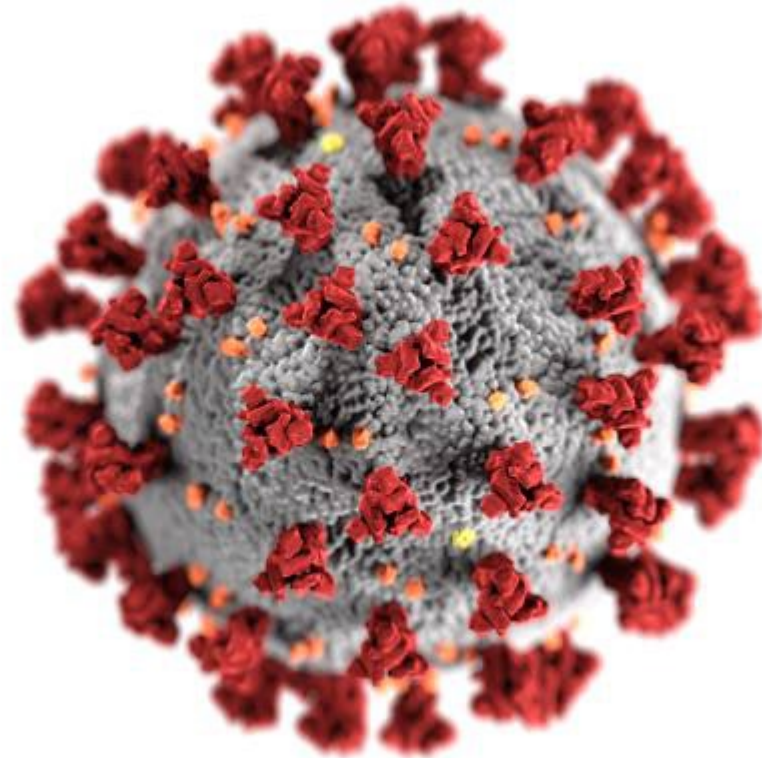


But then...

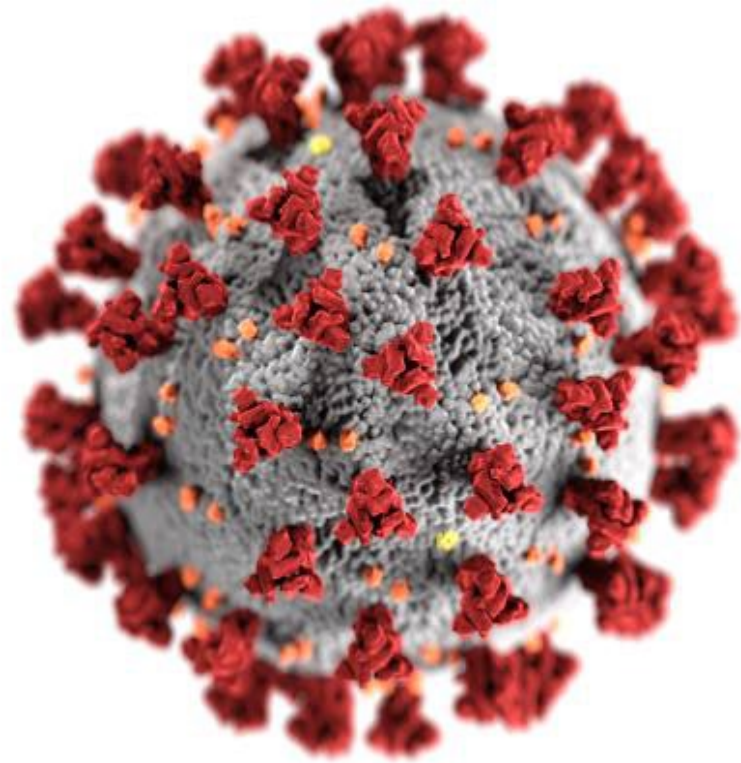
... reality bites !



2020-2022



2020-2022





2023



Politics ALWAYS react

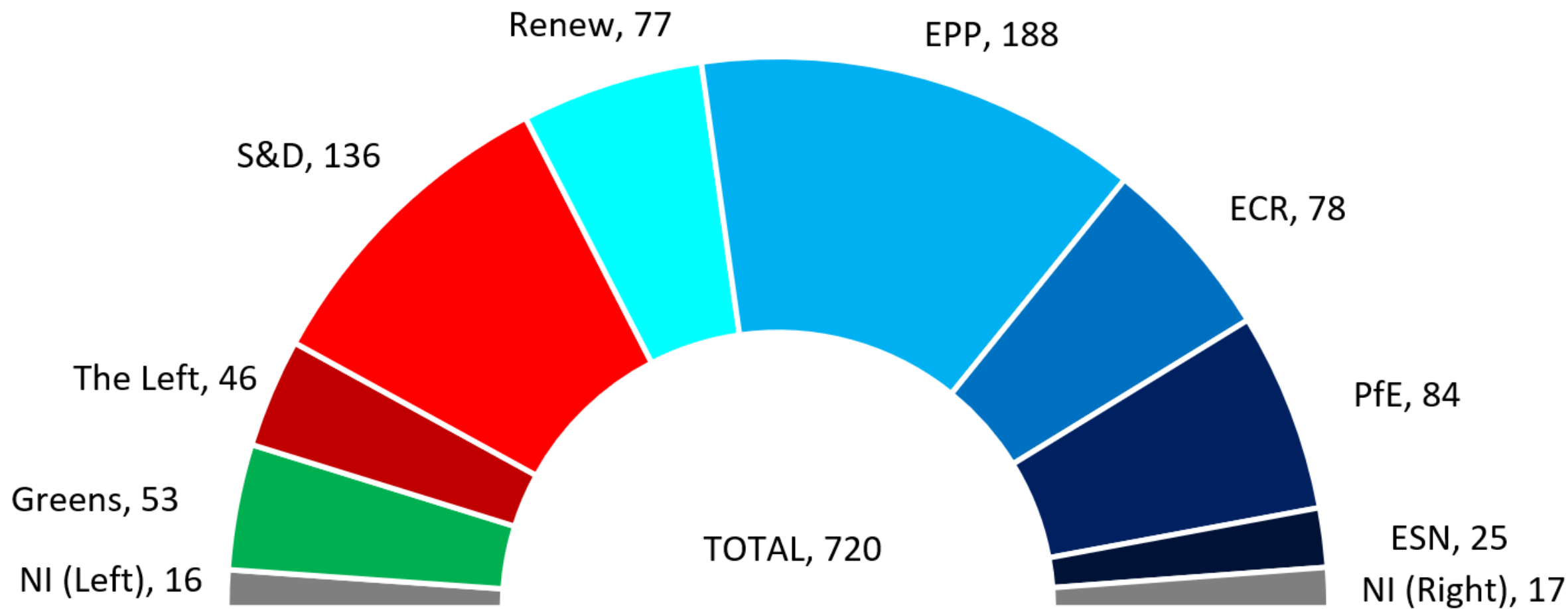


'We must work together with the men and women in EU farming to secure our food supply for the future. Our farmers face mounting challenges: that is why we want to launch a strategic dialogue on the future of EU agriculture. I am convinced that agriculture and protection of the natural world can go hand in hand. We need both.'

**Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
State of the Union 2023**

- **Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture**
 - Moderated multi-stakeholder approach; report August 2024
- **Impact on mission letter of designated Commissioner: "Vision"**
- **Preparation of revision der CAP 2028**
- **European Board for Agriculture and Food EBAF**

European Parliament 2024-2029

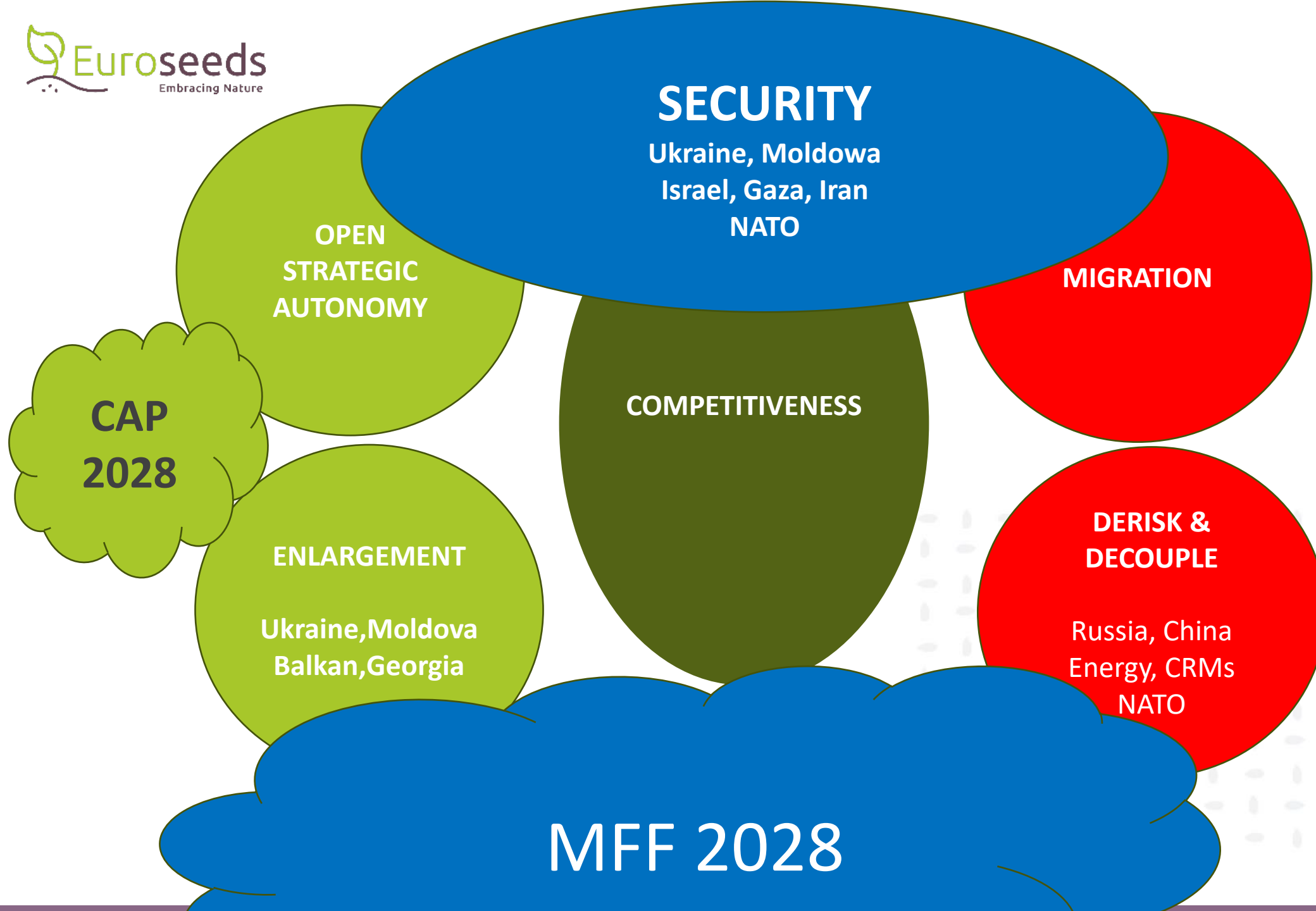


2024



5/11/2024





Prioritisation: it's the economy, stupid!

- Security, security, security

- Strategic autonomy
- New partnerships



Trade

- Competitiveness, competitiveness, competitiveness

- Simplification
- Implementation
- New technologies



Internal Market

EU-UK reset

- Thaw in relations
 - Wounds are healing
 - New personnel
 - Common enemies & concerns
- Pragmatic approaches on low(er) key issues
 - Seed marketing rules and IPRs
 - Phytosanitary measures
- Council mandate for negotiations expected within the coming weeks



Mercosur & Mexico FTAs

- Start of discussions in 2009 and again in 2016
 - Overburdened with concerns (agriculture)
 - Instrumentalisation of environmental issues
 - Not a top policy priority
- Re-start in 2023
 - More pragmatic, with more safeguards
 - Political agreement December 2024: top policy priority!
- Proposal for decision 3 September 2025
 - iTA interim Trade Agreements for both Mercosur and Mexico
 - EMPA and MPA after ratification (long process!)



What about seed?

- NGTs
 - Final stage of discussions
 - Cautious alignment with global approach: competitiveness!
- Seed marketing (PRM Plant Reproductive Material)
 - Seed security versus seed diversity
 - Still a “David against Goliath” discussion: simplification?
- Plant Variety Protection
 - Farm Saved Seed ; cutting costs
- Biotech Patents
 - Linked to NGTs ; balance protection and access

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Summarising conclusions

- Politics prefer stability – but change is inevitable
- The EU's complex system, buildt on laws and compromises, changes slow(er)
- An age of political and economic disruption will continue to put pressure
- Agriculture continues to be important, but is not THAT important
- The EU's new trade and partnership agenda offers opportunities: let's work on those – together!



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#EmbracingNature

