

Geopa Statement: On the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Agriculture Workforce

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the dramatic war that is taking place on the European continent, Geopa would first of all like to show its solidarity with all the Ukrainian people, especially those located in conflict zones and those displaced and seeking political asylum as well.

The effects of the invasion also spread to many sectors, among which the agricultural one will be severely affected. That is why Geopa would secondly like to support the farming community when it is most needed by assessing the employment challenges in the medium term and the solutions that the European Union can deliver to assist Ukrainian agricultural workers and European employers.

In that sense, apart from the measures already decided by Member States on a wide range of areas, Geopa will support the revision of the Seasonal Workers Directive as well as the development of the EURES platform, in close collaboration with the European Labour Authority, to both facilitate the intra-EU movement of non-EU mobile workers, especially cross-border and seasonal workers, as well as alleviating the administrative process when it comes to hiring procedures.

Moreover, Geopa will continue supporting Copa and Cogeca and will coordinate other concrete actions in the coming weeks based on the evolution of the conflict. Being the overall objective the prompt resolution of the war, the European Union should consider as well supporting actions for the strategic sectors most affected by the invasion of Ukraine. The safety of the European agriculture workforce also depends on it.