

# EU PARLIAMENT FOOD SYSTEMS SCORECARDS

*The European elections are coming up in June 2024 and 400 million citizens from across the Union will have the chance to elect their representatives in the European Parliament. To inform voters ahead of the vote, we have developed scorecards shedding light on political groups' track records on key votes related to food and agricultural policy during the current parliamentary term (2019-2024). We've focused on votes relating to the transformative measures proposed by the Commission under the EU Green Deal and its flagship Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy, which promised action to make Europe's food and farming systems resilient, sustainable, and fair.*

*This document, and the European Parliament scorecards published alongside it, have been developed following a simple methodology of assessing open-source data available at [MEP Watch](#). Voting records were gathered for all MEPs where roll call voting data was available, for a list of key votes identified by participating organisations of the EU Food Policy Coalition (FPC). The list of votes was segmented into five categories, each reflecting a key priority area outlined in the [EU FPC Manifesto](#) for the 2024 European Parliament elections.*

## 1. RECOGNISING AND SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR A TRANSITION

To evaluate MEPs' commitment to advancing the transition of the EU's environmentally and socially unsustainable food systems, in the first category we considered their voting records in three key votes related to the F2F, the Soil Monitoring Law, and the rejection vote of the Sustainable use of pesticides. Votes considered:

### **Diets (meat) within F2F**

The amendment considered was part of the Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system addressed the over-consumption of meat by Europeans.

### **Final vote on F2F report**

The resolution called on the Commission to implement a stronger legal framework for animal welfare, recognising the key role that animal welfare plays in sustainability, emphasising the Strategy's call to move to more plant-based diets and reducing the over-consumption of meat, and encouraging support for plant-based proteins.

### **Vote on national pesticide reduction targets - SUR proposal**

The amendment considered aimed to weaken the obligation to adopt and implement binding, time-bound targets at national level to reduce the use and risk of pesticides. It also included delaying the EU wide pesticide reduction target from 2030 to 2035 and setting an earlier reference period, thereby significantly weakening the overall targets.

### **Vote on Sustainable Soil Management - Proposal for a Soil Monitoring Directive**

This vote concerned a key amendment of the Proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience. The amendment removed the obligation for member states to define sustainable soil management practices. This deletion drastically compromised chances to achieve healthy soils by 2050, as the implementation of sustainable soil management practices is a prerequisite to restore and protect soils. Currently, up to 70% of EU soils are estimated to be in poor condition.

## 2. ACCESS TO HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS

To assess MEPs' support for enabling wider access to healthy and sustainable diets, we considered multiple votes, including that on the EU's Beating Cancer Plan specifying the key role of food environments and diets. We also considered votes that highlighted the importance of sustainable plant-rich diets within the context of tackling the EU's dependence on imports from third countries. Votes addressed:

### **Beating Cancer INI report: Diets (1)**

The amendment looked into the role of increased consumption of plants and plant-based foods in reducing cancer risk.

### **Beating Cancer INI report: Diets (2)**

The initiative aimed to strengthen the EU's fight against cancer through a comprehensive and coordinated strategy. This particular amendment tackled the over-consumption of meat in the context of preventing cancer risk.

### **Beating Cancer INI report: Food Environments**

This amendment focused on food environments and proposed mandatory and harmonised front-of-pack labelling to help consumers spot healthier food choices.

## **Food Security in EU INI: Diets**

The initiative aimed to ensure food security and long-term resilience of EU agriculture. This particular amendment acknowledged the positive impact that more plant-based diets have on humans, animals, the planet and food security.

## **Diabetes INI report: Food Environments**

Aiming at the prevention, management and better care of diabetes in the EU, the amendment opposed pricing policies to influence demand for healthy vs. unhealthy food.

## **3. SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR FARMERS AND CITIZENS**

The third category focuses on MEP's commitment to achieving improved social justice for farmers and citizens by considering votes relevant for the resilience of the farming sector in the EU, as well as for the recognition of the right to food as part of the right to an adequate standard of living both within and outside of the EU. The respective initiatives and votes from this category play a role in ensuring "strong accountability and fairness throughout the food chain" - one of the EU FPC's key priorities in its recommendations for a meaningful transition towards sustainable food systems. Votes considered:

### **Food Security in EU INI: Right to Food**

The amendment on the initiative to ensure food security and the long-term resilience of EU agriculture stresses that immediate action by the European Union is required to protect food security from threats such as climate change and biodiversity loss. It also underlines that both securing functional ecosystems and mitigating climate change are essential for food availability and affordability, as well as for rural livelihoods.

### **Food Security in developing countries: Right to Food**

The initiative focuses mainly on two pillars referred to in the EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges. Firstly, the improvement of the nutritional adequacy of food and secondly the enhancement of crisis prevention and resilience.

### **Common Agricultural Policy – Amendment of the CMO and other Regulations**

The amendment related to the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation (covering direct payments to farmers, sectoral support programmes and rural development, and proposing a new delivery model for the CAP); the CAP Horizontal Regulation (on financing, managing and monitoring the CAP); and the Amending Regulation introducing changes in five regulations, including on the single common market organisation (CMO).

### **CAP: April 2024 review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls - AM 6**

The amendment proposed obligatory capping on basic income to redirect funds from the largest farms to smaller farmers.

## **4. NATURE-FRIENDLY FARMING AND SHIFTING TOWARDS AGROECOLOGY**

The fourth category evaluates MEPs' voting behaviour around nature- and climate-friendly farming based on key votes on the use of toxic pesticides, introducing national CAP Strategic Plans and revoking environmental conditionality from the CAP. Votes assessed relate directly to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the agri-food sector within the context of climate mitigation, good environmental practices in agriculture the sustainable use of pesticides, and the use of alternatives to these harmful substances. Votes considered:

### **CAP Strategic Plans Regulation: EGD targets**

The amendment supported ensuring that CAP Strategic Plans contributed to the timely achievements of the objectives set out in the European Green Deal.

### **CAP Strategic Plans Regulation: Cut GHG from agri-food sector**

The amendment supported the contribution of CAP Strategic Plans towards climate change mitigation by reducing GHG emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration and promoting sustainable energy.

### **CAP: Commission Proposal: April 2024 review of CAP Strategic Plans and exemptions from controls and penalties**

The proposal supported revoking key environmental conditionalities under the CAP, ignoring unequivocal scientific evidence on the value of environmental conditionality in addressing climate change in the farming system.

### **SUR pesticides: Deleting or Weakening Binding Rules for IPM**

The proposal on the sustainable use of plant protection products included a weakening of the binding rules for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which is a set of tools to reduce the use of toxic pesticides, placing preventative agronomic measures at the heart of pest control, with synthetic pesticides being used only as a very last resort.

### **SUR Pesticides: Deleting/weakening Protection of Sensitive Areas**

The proposal for the new pesticide regulation included a ban of chemical pesticides in sensitive areas. These areas include nature protected areas, parks and playgrounds, aiming to protect citizens health - and in particular vulnerable groups - and our ecosystems. Voting for deleting or weakening the protection of sensitive areas undermined the health of people and biodiversity.

## 5. TRANSITIONING TOWARDS ETHICAL ANIMAL PRODUCTION

The final category evaluated MEPs' support for a transition in animal production – a change that will be fundamentally important to the broader transition to sustainable food systems. In this category, we considered the key vote on the European Protein Strategy, which addressed the importance of proteins as being essential to a balanced and healthy diet and for animal feed. Measures to promote the sustainable management of fish stocks were also assessed. Votes considered:

### **Protein Strategy INI: Plant based protein for human consumption and animal welfare**

The initiative brings together the plant health legislation, organic farming, and agro-genetics in general. Amongst other focus areas, it aims to develop plant-based and alternative protein for food and feed and to have a holistic approach that includes the whole food value chain.

### **More fish in the seas? Measures to promote stock recovery above the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)**

The amendment called on the Commission and the Member States to take steps to improve the welfare of marine invertebrates, such as crabs and lobsters, by including these animals in their animal welfare legislation and by banning the practice of boiling these animals alive.

### **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund: periods of time and the dates for the inadmissibility of applications for support**

Voting in favour of this Regulation allowed to establish the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period from 2021 to 2027. It laid down the priorities of the EMFAF, its budget and the specific rules for providing Union funding.

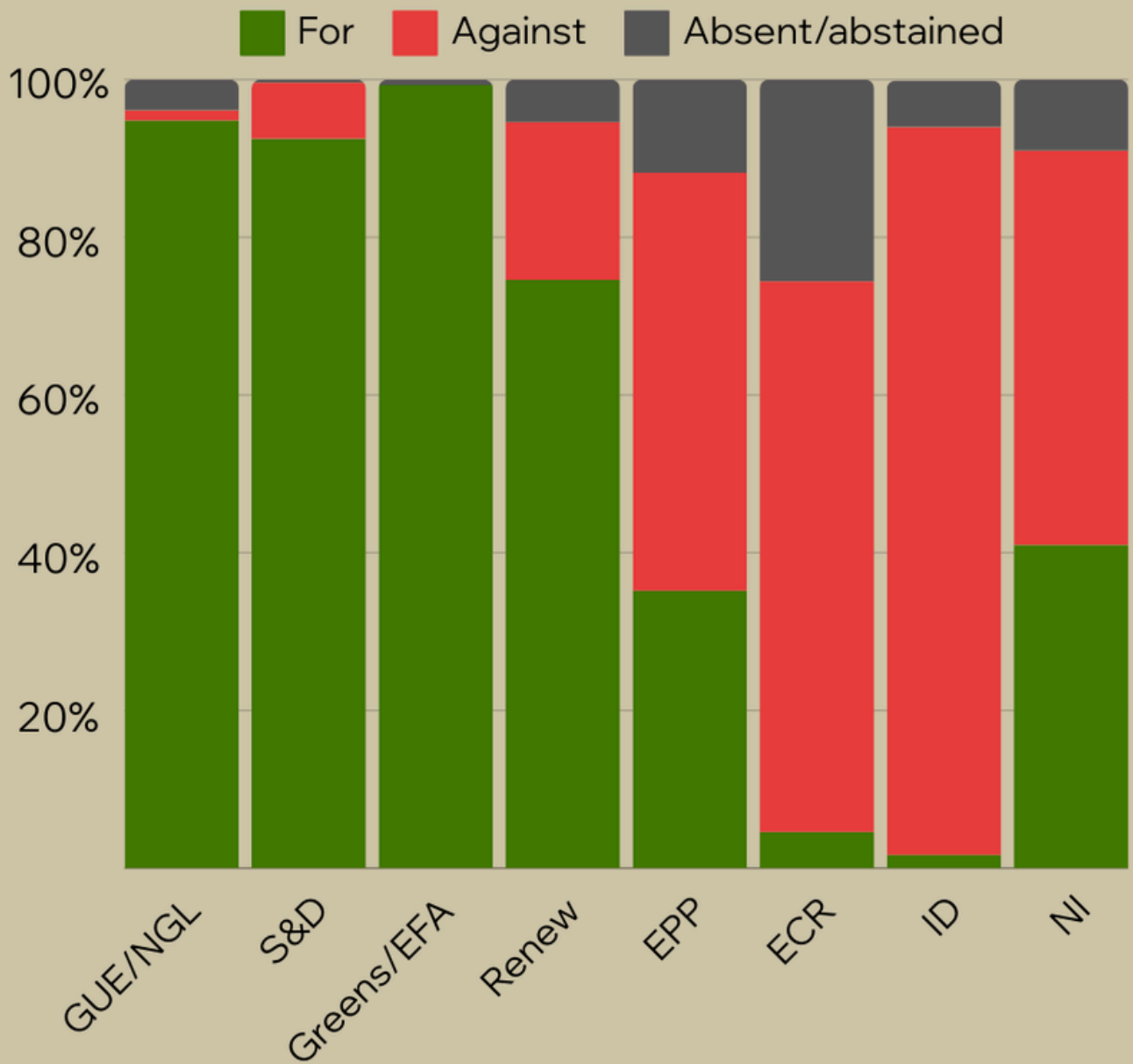


The Food Systems Scorecards were created with the support of Adam Orphelin who developed the tool to extract and format the data.



# FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSITION

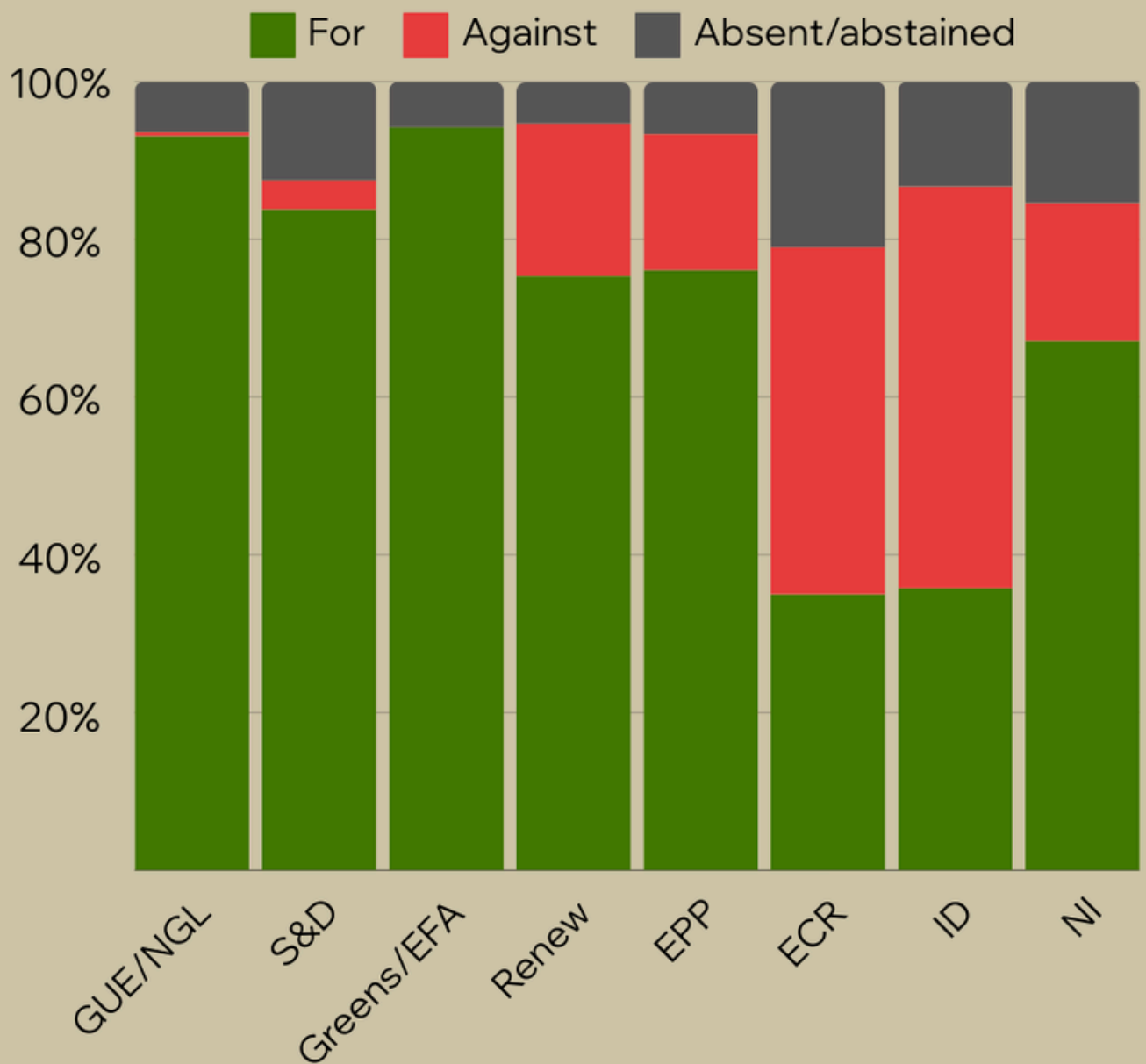
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# HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE DIETS

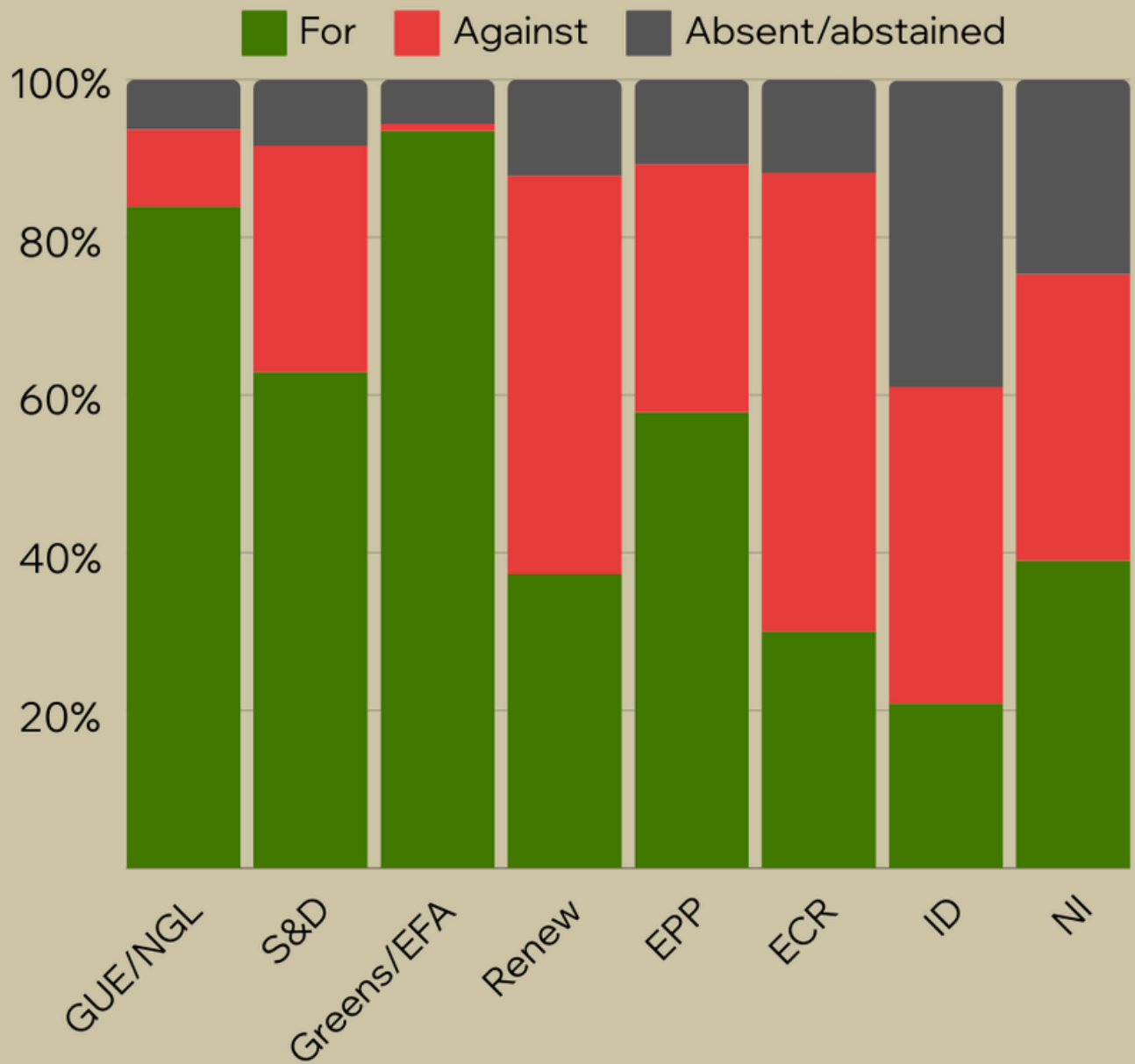
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# SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR FARMERS & CITIZENS

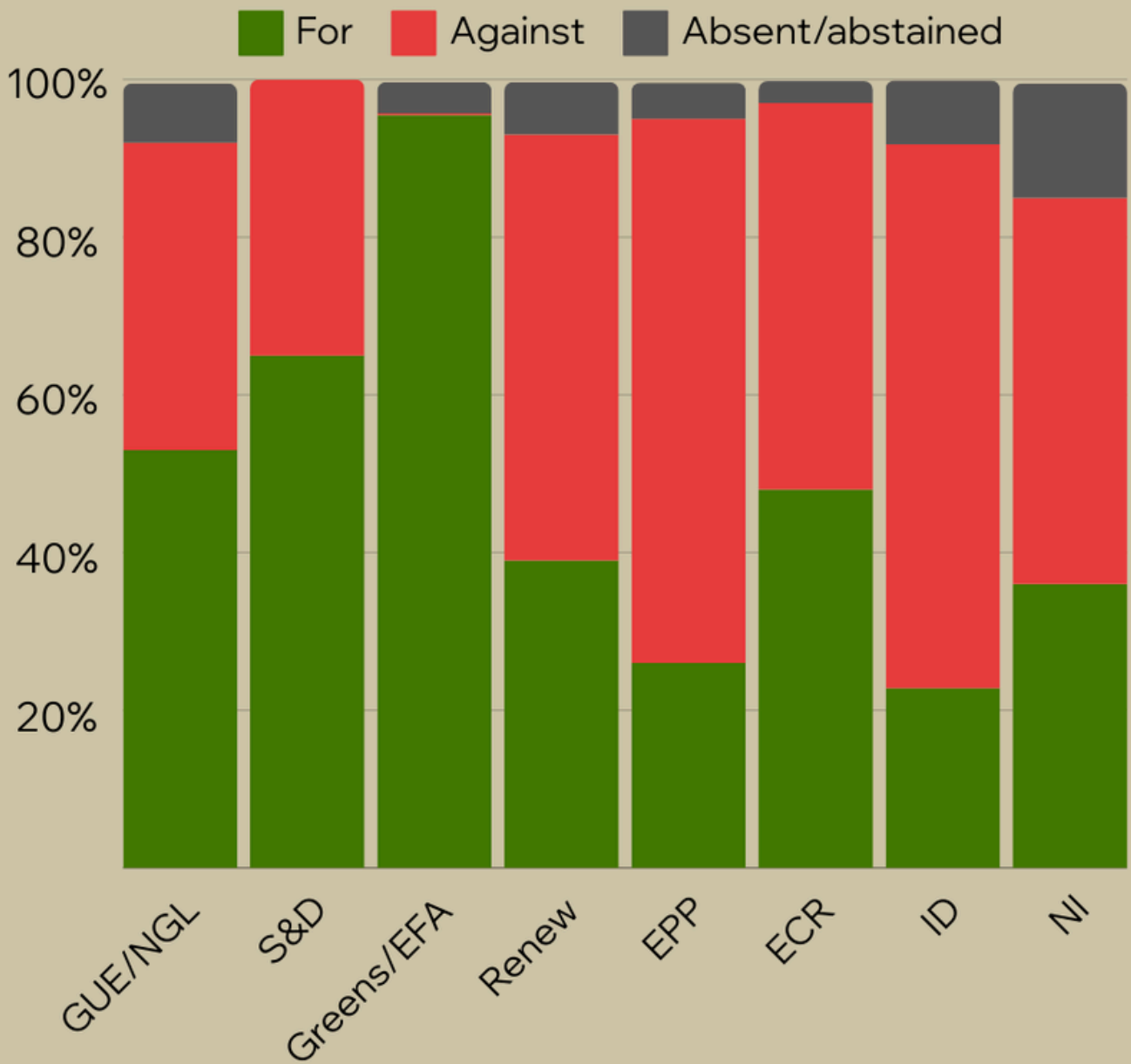
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# NATURE-FRIENDLY FARMING

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# ETHICAL ANIMAL PRODUCTION

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