



"May the force be with you" (Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi)

Regenerative agriculture

This term was initially used to define minimum tillage or no-tillage practices at the end of the 1980s. But this term has been evolving over the last two decades, gaining popularity, especially in the United States, and gradually also in Europe.

What is intended with this concept is that the soil is not only a support for crops, managing the land to take advantage of plant photosynthesis to close the carbon cycle and thus improve soil health by increasing organic matter and improving biodiversity and microbiology and at the same time increasing water retention capacity and carbon sequestration with the consequent reduction of atmospheric CO₂.

Actually, the core idea and practices behind regenerative agriculture have been carried out for thousands of years. **Nothing really new, but it seems interesting to reflect on the opportunities it can offer us.**



Lemon Essential Oil and the Green Deal. The threat of MOCS!

May 4th is Star Wars Day, which reminds us of the mythical phrase of this movie saga "May the force be with you". We certainly need **a lot of strength to face the development of the Green Deal in Europe in the coming years.** It is far from being a question of fighting against the "evil empire", please do not misunderstand us. But it is true that we often find it difficult to understand what is going on in the minds of European legislators.

We have all heard about the Green Deal, and **the EU's strategy to become the new green continent with the aim of giving Europe a new leading role in the geopolitical order of planet Earth.** There is no doubt that the Green Deal will transform our way of life, cities, mobility, the textile industry, food... surely we are not yet able to have a vision of this profound transformation that is already brewing in the gigantic machine of producing legislation that is the EU. A priori, it all seems very nice because one of the objectives is to ensure sustainability, care for the environment, the promotion of the circular economy...

This week I want to focus specifically on the possible impact on essential oils. Yes, the **Green Deal penetrates each and every pore of our European economic system and our lives.** In practice, not everything is as nice as it seems, and the sector has been convulsed and threatened when we see that **Europe intends to change the regulations and modify the definition of our essential oils so that, instead of being considered "complex natural substances", they are considered as "mixtures of components" (MOCs).** This change goes far beyond a change of definition, it is not a simple play on words. Considering a natural products as "MOCS" (let's remember this word because in the coming months it is going to be a nightmare) will actually mean the impossibility of marketing essential oils as we are doing now because there would be many restrictions. It is certainly a contradiction: let us remember that the starting point is that essential oils are natural products.

Someone asks to think that this is "small collateral damage resulting from the implementation of major political strategies". We disagree: behind lemon essential oil there are people, farmers, industrialists, technicians... and the responsibility of European legislators is to take care of them.

This issue affects all essential oils (lemon, orange, lavender, lavandin, rosemary, anise, lavender, fennel, marjoram, thyme...) so from the sector we are lobbying to defend our interests. **Unity is strength and the Green Deal "forces" us to work together, to coordinate, to share experiences to defend a common interest. At least in that, the Green Deal is working!**

