



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories

Brussels,  
AGRI.DDG3.G2/JG/mp (2018) 7220882

**MINUTES**

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP "TOMATOES" OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP  
ON HORTICULTURE, OLIVES AND SPIRITS»**

*Date: 19/10/18*

Chair: Commission (Mr GONZALEZ GARCIA)

Organisations present: All Organisations were present.

**1. Approval of the agenda (and of the minutes of previous meeting<sup>1</sup>)**

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public.

**3. List of points discussed**

**Forecast of the winter campaign 2018-19**

Both production and cultivation areas are expected to increase in the Netherlands by around 8%, compared to 2017-18. The summer campaign is extended through the winter in order to cover most of the year. The cultivation of valuable specialities is growing steadily, e.g. vine tomatoes now account for 87% of the Dutch production.

Stabilisation of production and cultivation area is forecasted in Spain. Last season's poor prices encouraged farmers to change tomatoes for peppers, courgettes or eggplants according to market conditions. Outbreaks of the pest moth *Tuta absoluta* were reported in the summer, which are difficult to control. Retailers are putting high pressure on prices by promotion campaigns of cheap round tomatoes. The season started with favourable prices in September and October.

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<sup>1</sup> If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

In Italy, production and cultivation area are likely to decrease by 2.6% and 9% compared to 2017-18, respectively.

Stagnation of production and cultivation area is expected in Morocco. Round tomatoes continue to prevail and represent 73% of the Moroccan production. Heatwaves in August and September prompted drop of flowers and delayed plantations. Some phytosanitary problems under control were reported. Morocco is diversifying and promoting their exports, in particular to Russia. It is unlikely that the Brexit could disrupt current trade flows with the UK.

### **Balance of the summer campaign 2018**

Production and cultivation area stabilised in the Netherlands. Valuable specialities prevail, i.e. 73% vine tomatoes and 16% miniatures. Production was abundant in the summer due to hot temperatures and, in consequence, prices dropped dramatically. The markets recovered in September following new planting. The presence of the moth *Tuta absoluta* and the difficulties to control this pest were reported.

France registered small decreases in production and cultivation area of around 2.5%, compared to 2017. Adverse weather conditions in the beginning of the summer affected consumption and prices. Valuable varieties predominate over round tomatoes, which only amount to 11% of the French production.

A significant reduction in production of 14.3% with respect to 2017 was observed in Spain. The decrease in the cultivation area was more moderate and represented 5%. Round tomatoes were the predominant variety with 66% of the Spanish production.

In Italy, while production increased slightly by 1.7%, the cultivation area dropped by 4.3%. Round tomatoes amount to 50% of the Italian production.

The EU production of tomatoes for processing decreased by 15.3% compared to 2017 and only reached 9.4 million tonnes. This was probably due to supply and demand adjustments and to the impact of climate change. The EU's share of world production fell for the first time in the last years to 27.6%. The world production declined significantly by 9.8% with respect to 2017. China's production stabilised at much lower levels than in recent years. Russia and Ukraine grew dramatically by 25% and +15.4%, respectively. The latter may become a strong competitor for EU processors. World production areas are unlikely to grow in the next years.

### **Trade Analysis**

Total EU imports increased slightly, while Morocco's and Turkey's imports stabilised at around 400 000 and 100 000 tonnes, respectively. On the other hand, EU exports continued to decrease.

As regards the Brexit, some experts requested to deduct the UK's share of EU tariff quotas (including those granted to Morocco), and asked to consider the exceptional emergency measures foreseen in the Common Market Organisation.

**4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

**5. Next steps**

**6. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for spring 2019 (date to be confirmed).

**7. List of participants - Annex**

(e-signed)

Michael SCANNELL

List of participants– Minutes

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*Date: 19/10/18*

	MEMBER ORGANISATION	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVES	
1	COPA/COGECA	Juan	CORBALAN
2	COPA/COGECA	Benjamin	FAULI
3	COPA/COGECA	Roque	GARCÍA
4	COPA/COGECA	Andrés	GONGORA BELMONTE
5	COPA/COGECA	Wim	RODENBURG
6	EACCE	Amine	CHAFAI
7	EACCE	Hicham	HARAKAT
8	EUCOFEL	Alba	RIDAO-BOULOUMIÉ
9	FEPEX	Jose Maria	POZANCOS
10	SACAR	Philippe	BINARD
11	SACAR	David	PATTE
12	SACAR	Henri	RIBES
13	Tomato Europe	Marco	BALDOLI
14	Tomato Europe	Guido	CONFORTI
15	TomatoEurope	Miguel	CAMBEZES