

Brussels,

FINAL MINUTES of the
Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group “Wine”
Date: 14 May 2019

Chair: Mr. Angel Villafranca (COGECA)

Organisations present: All organisations were present, except EPHA and PAN Europe.

1. Approval of the agenda (and of the minutes of previous meeting¹)

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted by written procedure.

The agenda of the day is approved with the following modifications proposed by the European Commission:

- the point on the “**revision of the directive on excise duties 92/83/EEC**” is deleted because of unavailability of DG TAXUD representatives;
- the point on the “**state of play of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides directive**” is deleted due to lack of time.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed

- *Study on “The Civil Dialogue Groups for the Common Agricultural Policy – Analysis of EU Policy Consultation”*

Deloitte presents the methodology, the timing and the main objectives of a study on the Civil Dialogue Groups, commissioned by DG AGRI services. Feedback and comments are requested from the participants.

IFOAM highlights the necessity of having a translated version of the online questionnaire realised in the framework of the study.

Copa-Cogeca stresses the importance of the dialogue between stakeholders and Institutions. It welcomes the creation of the Market Observatory, that will enhance the quality of the work the dialogue.

- *CAP: overview of the legislative process and Comagri report*

The **European Commission** (COM) gives an update on the timing and content of the CAP reform. In particular, it informs the group about the following elements:

- the Committee for Agriculture of the European Parliament (EP) endorsed in April the proposal of the Commission as regards to hybrids in PDOs, dealcoholisation and planting authorization, while rejecting the lifting of the ban on the six forbidden varieties and vitis labrusca;
- the European Council does not have a firm position but continues working on the texts. It endorsed the COM proposal on hybrids in PDOs and planting authorization, while proposing

¹ If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

further flexibility elements concerning the latter. Moreover, it rejected the lifting of the ban on the six forbidden varieties and vitis labrusca. As regards to dealcoholized wines, the Council proposes to restrain the use of the term to those products which have a total alcoholic strength after the dealcoholisation process that is no higher than the lower limit for that given category.

- both the Council and EP agreed on the same solution for enhancing consumers' information, foreseeing the possibility to dematerialise the list of ingredients.

Copa-Cogeca highlights the need to ensure a common implementation of EU rules at national level and greets the Institutions for the important developments on the labelling file. Nonetheless, it stresses the necessity not to communicate ingredients per single batch, because of logistics issues.

IFOAM asks the Commission whether transitional measures will be put in place.

CEEV asks the Commission if it was possible to have an update on the discussion on CAP Strategic Plans. Concerning the decision of the EP on the end of the system of planting authorisations, it asks for further reflections and evaluations on the issue before postponing the date of the end of the system. On rules for dealcoholized wine, CEEV affirms that these innovative products will be able to respond to innovation more swiftly. It asks the Commission to clarify if the Council proposal on dealcoholisation risks to lead to a grey zone for some products.. Finally, due to the introduction of these innovative products, it affirms the importance to have a flexible framework for the oenological practices.

COM informs the group on the COMAGRI report on CAP Strategic Plans. In particular, it explains that a new set of actions related to environment have been included in the CAP Strategic Plans and that today all support related to wine is focusing on the competitiveness of the sector but that in the future measures will focus on environment too. COM informs the group that it is not very likely that the new rules will apply as from 2021: under these circumstances transitional measures, currently under elaboration, will ensure the continuation of the programs.COM explained that it is premature to take today a decision on the postponement of the system on planting authorisations. COM reassures Copa-Cogeca regarding the specific rules for the list of ingredients: the COM will work later on these aspects through secondary legislation. It also confirms that the Council proposal on dealcoholisation will not create grey zones and would be able to effectively differentiate between categories.

Copa-Cogeca notes that many new objectives, particularly related to environment protection, have been included by the EP among the measures that can be financed within the wine sector. The multiplication of the number of measures combined with a lower budget is likely to slow down the competitiveness of the wine sector.

CEEV asks the COM for the different possible scenarios after the elections of the European Parliament

COM highlights that Member States are responsible for agreeing the total budget and they will decide on it ultimately. On the future of the EP reports, COM foresees two possible scenarios: either the reports are sent to plenary for a final vote in their current form or the EP decides to start from scratch. The COM affirms that it understands the importance for the sector to have an agreement.

○ *Situation of the European wine market*

COM illustrated the main market trends in the beginning of this campaign and leaves the floor to the participants in order to have an overview of the main concerns of the sector.

Copa-Cogeca stresses the important link between market results and climate conditions: the extreme events that we've been seeing in the last decades have resulted into a general volatility of

yields and the instability of the markets. Climate change poses a real threat for winegrowers and the future CAP should take this into account. This said, the first months of the current campaign have not seen any major climatic event, but some frosts. Droughts persist nonetheless, particularly in the Netherlands and Spain. Other external conjunctures will also be likely to affect the market: Brexit, the slowing down of the Chinese market, the isolationism of the US. The creation of the Market Observatory will be extremely beneficial for monitoring these events and foresee possible actions for containing price fluctuation. In some countries the sector is already working in order to ensure a better coordination along the supply chain and a fairer value distribution.

CEVI mentioned that some local frost episodes already affected producers and asks that future sectoral measures help reducing this problem.

CEEV mentioned that climate change is affecting the sector and that its impact could be dramatic, this is why sectoral measures should not be deleted from CAP National Support Programmes.

COM shares producers concerns on climate change and extreme weather and confirms that the Market Observatory will be a major tool for monitoring prices and better understand the price behaviour in the different categories.

○ *New market observatory for wine – Working methods*

COM outlines the objectives, the composition and the role of the Market Observatory and its Economic Board (EB). It replies to the questions from the floor and highlighted the following:

- The agenda will be prepared by COM with inputs from the members of the EB;
- For the moment only one meeting of one day per year is foreseen, however it could be considered to hold two half-day meetings per year instead. Extraordinary meetings can be organised depending on the needs and the relevance
- For the analysis of the market, the Commission explains that the EB will also deal with the market of the final product to the consumer;
- On the priorities identified for the discussion, the COM affirms that it will prepare a draft agenda that can be adapted according to specific needs. Flexibility is always allowed.
- The EB will debate on market issues; recommendations for policy actions addressed to the COM and other Institutions should be channelled through the existing CDG;
- The composition of the EB could be adapted depending on the agenda items of the meetings and external experts could be invited when relevant;
- The Commission affirms that the maximum number of experts of the EB is 20 as provided for in the call for applications. This would ensure the best functioning of the group;
- The priorities for the Observatory and its way of working will be discussed during the first meeting of the Observatory. The first meeting is foreseen in Autumn.

Copa-Cogeca and **CEEV** thanked the COM for the creation of the Observatory and insisted on the need to have more than one meeting per year

○ *Golden flavescence: classification in the new Regulation*

COM informed the participants on the timeline of the new Plant Health law and connected secondary acts. As regards to the measures applicable to regulated non-quarantine pests and quarantine pests, they will be included in delegated acts that will be prepared soon as well as the list of the diseases.

Copa-Cogeca insisted on the need to allow Member States to keep implementing existing successful policies for containment and/or eradication of flavescence dorée.

COM states that it will work on the classification of the flavescence keeping in mind the request for flexibility coming from the sector and preferring the status quo.

- *Organic wine: new delegated acts (exceptional practices and substances allowed)*
- **COM** gave feedback on the draft delegated act on the exceptional practices and on the new regulation (EU) 2018/848 regarding winemaking. Further analysis of winemaking substances might be done by the COM in collaboration with the relevant expert group (EGTOP), following demands from the sectors and Member States.

Copa-Cogeca reported an issue regarding the interpretation of the basic act related to the articles on mixed parcels.

CEEV asks the COM if any further information on the timeline on the priority list of third countries with which it is necessary to negotiate an agreement in advance is available.

COM suggested to address these topics in a letter to the COM.

- *Regulation 606/2009 on oenological practices*
- COM informed the group about the finalisation of the alignment of regulation 606/2009: both the delegated and the implementing acts have been adopted by the Commission and are pending publication, foreseen for the coming days or weeks. Both acts will be applicable 6 months after publication. In the meantime, COM will publish, in all EU languages, the files of the OIV code of oenological practices referred to in Annex I A to the delegated act in the Official Journal of the European Union, C series.

CEEV explains that some points in the final draft would need to be amended in the short term and asks the Commission about the next opportunities to modify/update the regulation.

COM affirms that, for the moment, the discussion is closed and that no modification is possible. However, the coming Regulation will be updated each year on the basis of OIV Resolutions and that comments can always be sent to the EC starting from now.

- *European partnership for biodiversity protection in viticulture*

Mr Ralph Dejas from **ECOVIN** presented the private certification scheme elaborated in Germany for wine producers that would like to implement biodiversity protection actions and convert to organic viticulture. The scheme is part of ECOVIN project, which also include dissemination and communication activities on such topics.

- *AOB*

Because of the absence of **COM** experts on the matter, the group did not discuss the following points:

- The revision of directive 92/83 and the latest proposal for changing the excise duties calculation put forward under the Romanian presidency;
- The trade disturbances between the US and the EU and the possible impact on the wine sector;
- The status of the Mercosur FTA agreement;
- The supposed block of wine imports in Indonesia.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

Copa-Cogeca and CEEV stressed the need to organise always a full-day meeting, in order to give space to the debate. Also, the President of the Group should be informed duly in advanced if points are deleted from the agenda, allowing for further suggestions for new items.

CEEV regrets the deletion of the point on the revision of directive 92/83 as it is important to inform the sector on this fundamental topic.

5. Next steps

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 5 November 2019.

7. List of participants - Annex

Disclaimer

"The opinions expressed in this report represent the point of view of the meeting participants from agriculturally related NGOs at community level. These opinions cannot, under any circumstances, be attributed to the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the here above information."

List of participants– Minutes

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#	Delegation	Name	First Name
1	Confédération européenne des vignerons indépendants (CEVI)	BEHR	Clara
2	Confédération européenne des vignerons indépendants (CEVI)	BERNHARD	Pierre
3	European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare)	SKAR	Mariann
4	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	SOURIN	Valentina
5	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	HALLER	Anne
6	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	MATA	Teresa
7	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	COSTE	Thierry
8	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	VILLAFRANCA	Angel
9	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	PAULUN	Eike
10	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	SCHWOERER	Christian
11	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	XENIKAKIS	Polydoros
12	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	CRONE	Simon
13	European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	CORBALAN	Juan
14	European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	CAÇOETE	Joaquim
15	European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	GONÇALVES	José
16	European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	ROMAGNOLI	Attilio
17	European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	MALTESE	Gianfranco
18	European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	MARTÍNEZ	Miguel
19	European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	MARTINS	Marco André teixeira

20	European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	MASSE	Samuel
21	European farmers (COPA)	MANSO	José
22	European farmers (COPA)	VIZCAINO	Jose Joaquin
23	European farmers (COPA)	BOSCO	Domenico
24	European farmers (COPA)	ESPOSITO	Palma
25	European farmers (COPA)	MIRIZZI	Francesco
26	European farmers (COPA)	VRBANEK	Josip
27	European farmers (COPA)	VERGER	Robert
28	European farmers (COPA)	GLATT	Josef
29	European farmers (COPA)	HADJIKYRIACOU	Stavros
30	European farmers (COPA)	GARCIA GASCO	Alejandro
31	European farmers (COPA)	PERŠOLJA	Silvan
32	European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	GENNARI	Anna
33	European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	TREIBER	Josef
34	European Federation of Origin Wines (EFOW)	FANNY	Ducrocq
35	European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	BUONANNO	Matilde
36	European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	VERECKEN	Jj
37	European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	WALTER	Matthias
38	FoodDrinkEurope	ALVES	Ana Isabel
39	FoodDrinkEurope	CAGIANO DE AZEVEDO	Ottavio
40	FoodDrinkEurope	FRANCOIS	Elvire
41	FoodDrinkEurope	MUSEUX	Marie

42	FoodDrinkEurope	TINELLI	Nicola marco
43	IFOAM EU Group	DEJAS	Ralph
44	<i>Deloitte BV (consultant)</i>	<i>BAKS</i>	<i>Merel</i>