

Brussels,

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group Horticulture, olives and spirits — Sector Olives

Date: 9/10/18

Chair: Mr Sanchez De Puerta, COGECA

Organisations present: all organisations were present, except European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunies / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations (SACAR), BirdLife Europe, TomatoEurope

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

The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting are adopted.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting is non-public.

3. List of points discussed

(4) Trade issues

(a) Tunisia DCFTA

The **Commission** informs the participants that the second official round of negotiations was organised and that the chapter on Geographical Indication has been closed *ad referendum*. The third round of negotiations will take place on October 10th-14th. The new offers have not been exchanged between the two parties.

Copa-Cogeca declares its opposition to any increase of the free duty quota for olive oil imports from Tunisia.

Food Drink Europe declares to be in favour of the agreement and of an increase of the free duty quota for olive oil imports from Tunisia.

The **Commission** specifies that the Tunisian government asked for an additional free duty quota for its olive oil without giving any concession in exchange. The Commission refused granting unilaterally an additional quota and proposed a short-term agreement including the possibility of granting each other further trade concessions. However, Tunisia does not seem to be interested.

Copa-Cogeca highlights that the change in the management of quotas, notably from a monthly allocations to one annual allocation, has been affecting the prices of olive oil in Italy, considering

¹ If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

that the quota is filled completely in the first days of the year. Copa-Cogeca asks that the Commission reconsiders the reintroduction of the previous management system.

(b) US duties on Spanish ripe olives

The **Commission** informs the participants that it has provided all the possible support to the Spanish olive sector throughout the procedures and allocated extra budget for promotion activities of Spanish ripe olives in third markets. At the moment the Commission is looking into the possible actions to be taken within the WTO.

Food Drink Europe thanks the Commission for the help, but stresses the economic damages suffered by the Spanish operators (around 5 million € for the legal assistance only). It declares its support for a WTO action.

ECVC highlights the distress of the producers and the negative effects that the extra duties on prices: table olives are now 0,40 € per kg (compared to an average price pre-crisis of 0,65 € per kg).

(2) Xylella Fastidiosa

(a) State of play

The Commission presents the state of play on xylella, which confirms the situation presented before the summer, insisting on the need to keep strict control measures in place to prevent further spread in the rest of the Union territory. It also informs the group that a web platform under CIRCA-BC will be created to share awareness raising material on plant health (e.g. videos, leaflets, relevant documents) with the aim to optimize resources available on communication activities across Member States. EU stakeholders, including national organisations, were invited to participate. Details of the latest Expert Group meeting on Plant Health Awareness Raising are available at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/expert_group_en

(b) XF actors project presentation & (c) POnTE project presentation

Ms. Saponari, IPSP-CNR, describes the different stages of the two projects and explained the important results of the working packages and how they contributed to gaining a better knowledge of the disease. She informs the group that the project is now looking into certification procedures for declaring plants free from the bacteria as well as the dissemination of the results.

(d) Life resilience project

José María Castilla Barò, ASAJA, introduces the most recent project on xylella, working on resistant varieties and the control of the vector.

Copa-Cogeca thanks the Commission for the support given to the research projects. However, it asks for enhancing the dialogue with the Italian authorities in order to make sure that the affected operators can start again. Particularly, it is proposed to: sustain research, favour the exchange of information among farmers and between the farming community and the research world, particular care for historical trees and more monitoring activities.

The **Commission** confirms the need to support constructive dialogue among the relevant Institutions and local stakeholders; a visit of Commissioner Andriukaitis to Apulia may take place in the near future.

(3) Marketing standards for olive oil

(a) State of play of the work on-going in the CODEX and in the IOC

The **Commission** informs the group on the recent work of Codex Alimentarius, regarding the composition and quality of olive oil. It confirms that its objective is to make sure that these standards are aligned to the European ones. A text should be discussed at the plenary next February. At IOC level, the Commission informs that the level of pesticides and other contaminants are currently being looked into. IOC is also working on issues linked to the panel test method (sensorial analysis).

Food Drink Europe urges the Commission to be particularly attentive to the mineral oil limits and to avoid limits that are too low, therefore avoiding problems of detection. Moreover it stresses the need to correctly apply stocking rules to distributors.

BEUC warns as well the Commission against low mineral oil limits that would make the detection of the substances in olive oil uncertain.

(b) Panel test update

Dr. Massimo Luciani, legal expert, referred on the legal implication of the panel test. During the presentation Mr Luciani underlined that the application of the method is not robust enough on the scientific side in particular with relation to the criminal implication.

CELCAA stresses the need to apply the panel test method within the legal security limits.

BEUC criticizes the approach of the external speaker, which is judged as non-impartial, and asks the Commission to screen external invitees beforehand. The scientific characteristics of the panel test are also highlighted.

Copa-Cogeca joins BEUC declaring its support to the panel test and argues that its scientific validity cannot be refuted. It asks the Commission to invite experts from IOC instead of legal experts.

Food Drink Europe insists on the need to keep the panel test, while protecting operators from legal biases.

(c) Advisory Group meeting of October 2018

Mr. Vasileios Pyrgiotis, member of the **Advisory Group of the IOC**, informs the members that at the upcoming meeting the panel test issues will be discussed. He also informs the Group about the working paper presented at the previous meeting in Amman by the Italian delegation.

(1) Market situation

(a) Working group on Olives Market Situation and Technical Issues – State of play on the selection of candidates

The **Commission** informs the members that it will start looking into the organisation of the first meeting of the Market Working Group. A relevant number of candidates has been received by the Services, who will now start the selection procedure on the basis of the CV. The Commission confirms that reimbursement will be provided to the confirmed experts as well as interpretation, according to the SCIC services availability.

(b) Emerging markets and new producing countries

Mr. Rafael Pico Lapuente, ASOLIVA, present an outlook of the non-EU olives production and the challenges of the EU exports. He highlights the need to enhance promotion activities with a particular accent on health benefits. He warns that the decrease of Spanish olives exports to the US will soon be counterbalanced by increased exports from other countries, particularly Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt.

(c) Presentation on market situation (olive oil and table olives)

The **Commission** informs the members on the current status of the market and the production forecast for 2018/2019 campaign. A general decline should be observed, except for Spain.

(d) Medium-term outlook for olive oil (2018-2030)

(d) Medium-term outlook for olive oil (2018-2030)

The **Commission** presents an outlook on olive oil market towards 2030, highlighting the main three drivers behind the increasing global consumer market having an impact on the production trends in the EU: culinary aspects, brands and provenance. In addition, it stresses out the need to focus on external markets, which are most likely to increase EU export potential, while EU consumption is declining in the main producing countries.

Food Drink Europe suggests to look into the distribution channels and how they influence the consumption patterns, and to investigate the relation between consumption of olive oil and health conditions.

ECVC asks to analyse the different impact of traditional and intensive olives production.

Copa-Cogeca insists on the need to inform consumers on the qualities and health benefits of olive oil consumption, which is considered as key for gaining market share.

(5) Common Agricultural Policy

(a) Proposal of the Commission for CAP post 2020: strategic plans, sectoral interventions in the OO sector and direct payments

The **Commission** explains the main changes and proposals in relation to sectorial interventions affecting the olive sector.

Copa-Cogeca asks if the Commission is planning to use the delegated powers foreseen in the regulation proposal for harmonising the rules of application of the sectoral measures.

The **Commission** informs the group that the Commission empowerment indicated by article 41 of the proposals is of a large scope in order to solve any possible problem of application that could appear with these new measures. No formal proposal to use this power has been put forward yet as this is subject first to the adoption by the legislators, as the rest of the regulation.

(6) AOB

(a) Clorpirofos

Copa-Cogeca asks the Commission if there is a European conversion formula for assessing the maximum residue limit of clorpirofos in olive oil, considered that it has just been reviewed for olives.

The **Commission** asks Copa-Cogeca to address the relevant services with this question.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

5. Next steps

6. Next meeting

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

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group Horticulture, olives and spirits — Sector Olives

Date: 9/10/18

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NAME	FIRST NAME
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	MIRIZZI	Francesco
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	SANCHEZ DE PUERTA	Rafael
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	VITA	Flaminia
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	CASTILLA BARÓ	José María
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	FALCÃO	Patrícia
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	GUILLAUMIN	Yves
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	NAJEV	Jakša
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	PINATEL	André
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	COSTA PINTO	Lucinda Maria
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	MESA MORA	José Antonio
European farmers (COPA)	ESPOSITO	Palma
European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)	ELVIRA ARROYO	Francisco
European farmers (COPA)	MOLINA	Francisco
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	GOSSELET	Nathalie

European farmers (COPA)	PAVÃO	Francisco
European farmers (COPA)	RUFOLO	Anna
European farmers (COPA)	LOPEZ MARTINEZ	Gregorio
European farmers (COPA)	DI NOIA	Nicola
European farmers (COPA)	PYRGIOTIS	Vasileios
European farmers (COPA)	CANO MARTIN	Cristobal
European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	LAHITA CABRERA	Angel
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	FORCELLA	Tullio
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	DE MORA	Antonio
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	PICO LAPUENTE	Rafael
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	CANE	Anna
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	CARRASSI	Andrea
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	MATOS	Mariana
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	CHARDON	Antoine
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	ANTONIADIS	Grigorios
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	OIKONOMOU	George
Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection	SAPONARI	Maria

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Regional Group (IFOAM EU Group)	CONTENTO	Fabrizio
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)	MURARU	Constantin
Studio Legale Luciani	LUCIANI	Massimo