

FINAL MINUTES NOT ADOPTED-TO BE ADOPTED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group Wine

05/11/19

Chair: Mr. Ángel Villafranca Lara (COGECA)

Organisations present: all organisations present except EPHA

Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) proposes to discuss an additional point on the new French tax on premix wine based products.

1. Nature of the meeting

The meeting is non-public.

2. List of points discussed

- *Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group*

The **Commission** reminds the rules of procedures and proceeds with the elections of the Chairmanship. Mr. Ángel Villafranca Lara (Cogeca) is elected Chair of the Civil Dialogue Group, while Mr. Jean-Marie Barillère (CEEV / FoodDrinkEurope) is elected Vice-Chair.

- *Future Commission: organisation of competences as regards to wine policy*

The **Commission** reminds the members that the College of Commissioners has not yet been approved by the Parliament. The beginning of the new mandate should start on 1st December. No changes are foreseen as regards to the wine policy. However, new files will be discussed that might have an impact on wine, in particular the Green New Deal and the Sustainable Food Strategy.

- *Wine Market Observatory: debriefing of first meeting and update on current market situation*

The **Commission** gives an overview of the first meeting of the Wine Market Observatory (MO), reporting several challenges and priorities discussed. The MO members agreed, in particular, on the need for:

- improving the dissemination of data;
- enhancing our understanding of the wine market;

- helping operators in their strategic thinking, through medium and long term outlooks;
- looking at geopolitics and climate change aspects;
- reviewing the current price detection system.

The **Commission** also presents the IT tools (website, dashboard) and informs the Group that the next meeting should take place before the next Wine Civil Dialogue Group.

Copa-Cogeca congratulates the Commission on the creation of the Observatory and insists on the need to focus on prices.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) congratulates as well and suggests that before looking into any new data to be collected, the MO should start an assessment of the current means.

The **Commission** presents the latest data on the market situation available [online](#). It is highlighted that the current stock level raised by 22 million hectolitres compared to 2018, while the forecast for 2019 harvest shows a decrease in the total production.

Pan Europe asks the Commission on specific data for organic production.

The **Commission** reminds the members that this information is not yet available but should be included in the future analysis.

- *Brexit – implications for the EU Wine sector and measures taken by the Commission*

The **Commission** gives an update on the Brexit process and informs the Group that, in the case of a hard Brexit scenario, the UK side has not planned duties on imports of wine in the UK so far and apparently no certification will be needed in the first 9 months after Brexit (to be confirmed). Following this 9 months period, a UK –VI-1 certificate would be required. Finally, it is highlighted that no major changes were detected in the wine trade flow so far over the period 2016-2019.

EFOW asks the Commission what will happen to the GI protection in case of no-deal Brexit.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) insists that in case it will be necessary to register EU GIs in the future UK GI scheme, the Commission should support the process.

The **Commission** confirms that discussions on the GI scheme would be taken up during the FTA negotiations. However, negotiations risks taking several years. No major changes if the withdrawal agreement is adopted since there would be a transitional period (status-quo).

- *Update on wine trade: Mercosur FTA and US duties, CETA*

The **Commission** reports on the wine and spirits Committee meeting under the CETA agreement. A joint report will be published. The following points are highlighted:

- Officials from British Columbia, Ontario and Québec attended the Committee meeting for the first time, thus confirming their interest to engage more directly with the EU on concerns regarding provincial measures still affecting the access to the market for EU wines;
- British Columbia removed certain restrictions limiting the sales of EU wines in grocery stores. Ontario extended the range of stores allowed to sell EU wines.
- Canada announced that Ontario and Québec would finalise the new audits requested by the EU to justify the costs imposed to imported wines within the one-year deadline set out in

CETA. The audit reports will be accompanied for the first time by non-confidential summaries, which is a step toward more transparency;

- As regards to GIs protection, Québec has in practice phased out all products mentioning “*méthode champenoise*”, while France is in discussions with the Canadian authorities on a possible misuse case of “*Chablis*”.

The **Commission** illustrates the Mercosur agreements provisions impacting the wine sector. In particular, it is indicated that:

- for the import certification only a reduced number of parameters is to be listed (4);
- a mutual recognition of oenological practices is foreseen, based on the OIV standards;
- the tariffs liberalization will be completed in 8/10 years;
- a good protection level of all our main GIs (including Champagne and Prosecco) has been achieved, except for Rioja.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) congratulates the Commission for the achievements as regards to the simplification of the certification. However, it alerted about the possible coexistence of trademarks and GIs and the long phasing out period.

The **Commission** informs the participants that the EU is actively seeking for a resolution of the trade conflict with the US and gives an update on the new duties imposed on agrifood product.

Copa-Cogeca claims that the duties are unjust and that they have the potential to affect the whole wine market of the EU.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) asks the Commission to solve swiftly the dispute in order not to lose the competitive advantage that EU companies have on the US market. The Commission informs that concrete retaliation actions will be taken only after the Boeing case will be closed. In the meantime, all negotiating efforts are put in place.

- *Uptake of sustainable practices among EUs wine growers*

Mr. **Felix WÄCKERS**, Biobest Group, illustrates the biocontrol measures and usage of non-crop vegetation as an alternative to PPPs, as well as their proved effectiveness. Mr. **Marco TASIN**, Swedish University of Agricultural Science, illustrates a toolbox for sustainable vineyards zooming in on benefits of non crop vegetation.

Copa-Cogeca reminds that farmers already use alternative methods, but those cannot be applied irrespectively of the specificities of the terroir, because of significant differences in terms of soil and climate among the EU wine regions.

- *Presentation of the conclusion of the evaluation of the CAP measures applicable to the wine sector*

The **Commission** presents the results of the evaluation on the wine related provisions of the CAP, highlighting the effectiveness of the sectoral measures.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) asks how the study and the recommendations formulated in this evaluation would feed into the CAP discussions . CEEV asks to take into account the low-alcohol wine products and highlights the importance of vine genomics for climate adaptation of the vineyard.

IFOAM asks for more support for innovative and environmental friendly agronomical practices within the sectoral measures.

Copa-Cogeca reminds that other solutions to hybrids are possible, in particular if NBTs potential is expressed fully.

The **Commission** informs that all the elements of the study are taken into account in the discussions and that the Commission is pushing for an enhanced environmental sustainability.

- *CAP reform: update on the legislative process and the transitional measures*

The **Commission** gives an update on the CAP discussions reminding that the adoption of the Council and Parliament positions is linked to the adoption of the MFF 2021/2027. A Commission proposal for transitional regulation has been adopted. It proposes that NSPs are integrated into MSs' CAP strategic plans only at the end of their current programming period (15 October 2023) and foresees the same cut (3,9%) in the wine envelopes as the future CAP regulations.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) insists on the need to maintain continuity by supporting operators in the implementation of the environmental instruments in the light of the new "green architecture".

- *EU Excise Directives: Study on Directive 2008/118 on distance selling, acquisition by private individuals and wholesale to retail*

The **Commission** informs that PWC report will be finalised in Q4 2019 and the discussions are going in the direction of a one-stop-shop approach like for the VAT.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope), **CEVI** and **Copa-Cogeca** insist on the need to accelerate the reform, in order to allow a simplification of procedures especially for small operators and call for a short term transitional solution (English web page with national current legislation)

- *Presentation of the results of the Wine Outlook Group*

The **Commission** explains the main results and the methodology of the medium term outlook analysis for the wine sector that will be officially presented at the annual conference in December.

- *Update on current GI files under review*

The **Commission** gives an overview on the current files and on the new e-Ambrosia system.

- *Organic wine*

The **Commission** explains the main features of the new organic wine regulation and informs that an assessment of the use of enzymes will be conducted by EFSA, which will possibly determine changes in the list of substances authorised.

Copa-Cogeca reminds the difficulties in the application of provisions for mixed surfaces.

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope) asks for a flexible but technical approach when assessing which additives and processing aids should be used for the production of organic wines.

- *Implementation of Irish PHB – step, procedures and impact on Single market*

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope), presents the state of play concerning the adoption process of the Irish Health (Alcohol) Act with a specific focus on the Implementing Regulations notified in 2019 on alcohol sales at a reduced price. While CEEV is supportive of national initiatives aiming at addressing harmful use of alcohol, it believes the draft Implementing Regulations to be disproportionate and, failing to address misuse of alcohol. As a matter of fact, it will cause disturbance of the competition of the Irish market and introduce complexity and uncertainty in the management of award systems. It asks the Commission whether it counts on sending any detailed comment to Ireland. Moreover, it asks what measures will be taken by the Commission in relation to the parts of the adopted Irish Health (Alcohol) Act that are incompatible with the FIC regulation.

The Commission is currently assessing the draft Implementing Regulation. As for the adopted Irish Health (Alcohol) Act and the measures that appear to be in breach of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, the Commission refers to the possibility of introducing a formal complaint upon which it could act.

- *French tax on premix wine based products*

CEEV (FoodDrinkEurope), informs the group on the proposal for a tax on premix wine based drinks and illustrates the implication for the whole EU wine market.

The Commission (DG TAXUD + DG GROW) is aware of this initiative, but since it is a pure national fiscal measure that does not introduce technical specifications, in principle it is not notifiable under the Single Market Transparency Directive. Nonetheless, the Commission provided information about how to lodge a formal complaint.

- 3. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**
- 4. Next steps**
- 5. Next meeting**
- 6. List of participants - Annex**

List of participants– Minutes

Civil Dialogue Group Wine

Date: 05/11/ 2019

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	5
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	7
Confédération européenne des vignerons indépendants (CEVI)	2
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	7
European farmers (COPA)	11
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	3
European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)	1
European Federation of Origin Wines (EFOW)	1
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)	-----
European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare)	1
FoodDrinkEurope	5
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Regional Group (IFOAM EU Group)	1
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)	1
Experts	2
Total: 47	