

meeting summary

12 April 2018

- o The third meeting of the Crops Market Observatory (CMO) took place on 12 April 2018, chaired by Mr. Jens Schaps, Director for Agricultural Markets. It gathered the representatives of organisations from all stages of the cereals, oilseeds and protein crops supply chain. The following CMO members were represented: CEJA-European Council of Young Farmers, COPA-Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations, COGECA-General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives, COCERAL - European Organisation for trade in agricultural commodities, EPKK - Estonian Chamber of Agriculture & Commerce, European Flour Millers - flour industry, Semouliers UE - semolina industry, Starch Europe - starch industry, FEFAC - compound feed industry, CAOBISCO - confectionery industry and ePURE - ethanol industry.
- o The meeting started with an exchange of views on the current market situation and developments for cereals oilseeds and protein crops. With regard to cereals, the Economic Board addressed trade in particular, emphasising the increasing competitiveness of Black Sea cereals (not only in terms of price, but also quality). The strong demand for maize on the EU market is being driven by feed uses mainly. On the oilseeds market, the Economic Board commented that soya imports will continue to be essential to supply the feed market. Even if rapeseed production compared to other arable crops is currently quite attractive for farmers , a further increase will depend on market demand for rapeseed oil. As regards protein crops (e.g. peas and beans), production may be stable next year (the expected slight decrease in area could be compensated by yield increases). The Board was invited to send written comments on the very first draft version of a new balance sheet on protein crops, covering different protein crops (grains and fodder legumes), which also includes the different uses (food and feed). Once further developed, this new balance sheet will help monitor the plant protein markets in Europe.
- o The next part of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of the study on "Storage capacities and logistical infrastructure for EU agricultural commodities trade". The representative of the Areté company and author of the study, conducted for the European Commission, summarised the methodology, the mapping of storage capacity and logistical infrastructure, the current need of storage capacity and existing bottlenecks. The Economic Board welcomed the findings and conclusions of the study and considered it as a good instrument for further investment decisions. ([link to download the study](#))
- o Discussions continued with an update from the Commission about the development of a Protein Plan for Europe. Among others, the Commission presented the outcome of the recent stakeholder's survey to which many Board members contributed actively. Board Members also welcomed the launch of a study on the market potential for protein crops and updated information on the thematic workshops. They stressed the need to collect information in Member States/regions. All in all, progress in the preparation of the EU Protein Plan was highly welcome.
- o The next meeting of the CMO Economic Board is scheduled for 11 July 2018 morning (tentative date).