

Final report

CDG on Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein Crops – 4th July 2017

1) Agenda has been approved

2) Harvest/Crop Forecast

The Commission presented the harvest and crop forecast, including the recent weather events.

3) The Commission presented the situation of trade in cereals and the balance sheet for 2016/17 as well as 2017/18.

CELCAA drew attention to the fact that recent weather events have shown that our statistical knowledge is not sufficient and nothing has been done to improve our systems in place to the benefit of supply chain. On balance sheet introduction of trade barriers, such as in Egypt, should not be neglected, which affected the EU's export potential. In the past 4 years, the world has produced more wheat than consumed, which is a rare occurrence.

COPA confirmed the analysis of the Commission and CELCAA, highlighting the low harvest is below 300 million tonnes for the past 5 years, perhaps indicating that this is the new average in the light of recent policy changes, such as EFAs, crop rotation etc. It is emphasized that embracing technologies and keeping the pace in finding solutions for safeguarding the quality of crops in Europe. COPA suggested a roundtable of the supply chain to discuss the future of crops in Europe.

EEB asked whether some countries are sending misleading information and statistics.

PAN Europe asked if there are differences between organic production and conventional production, and whether pesticide use can be presented as well in the future.

EFFAT supported the proposal on need for research and careful examination of financial support for main crops.

IFOAM asked if organic production has more resistance to weather events compared to conventional crops.

EFFAT claimed that the European Commission is supporting the privatization of European statistics.

4) Study on storage capacities and logistical infrastructure for EU Agricultural Commodities Trade

The Commission presented the study objectives, giving examples from case studies and the roadmap.

COPA asked if new storage modes have been taken into account such as silo bags.

The Commission responded that indeed there is lack of statistical database in Germany and that in general it appears very difficult to collect information on storage capacities. The experts on the ground have been consulted to circumvent that problem. The Commission will verify the issue of new storage possibilities.

5) Interbranch development in the COP sector

The Commission presented the study carried out on the topic.

6) MiFID II & EMIR

The Commission presented the state of play on MiFID II and EMIR

7) Discussion in the informal Council on Water and Agriculture

Point not addressed due to illness of the foreseen speaker

8) Digitalisation in Agriculture: Developments under EIP-AGRI and Horizon 2020

The Commission presented their work on the topic under different programmes.

The Commission responded to the questions from the floor. The difference between digitalization and IoT is a mere coverage issue, and the Commission prefers using the term digitalization as an

umbrella concept. There are many issues related to data sharing for which it is challenging to find one-size-fits-all type solutions. There are many related ongoing discussion, for example on the lack of transparency (which is an issue not confined to agriculture only, but also for other sectors). EIP-Agri workshops, focus groups and other events tend to have open call for participants.

9) Acrylamide

Rothamsted Research (invited by FoodDrinkEurope) presented results of various research works aimed at finding mitigations ways to reduce acrylamide in food.

10) AOB – Soya Declaration

Commission presented the initiative of some Member States announced on 12 June, in particular by Germany and Hungary. The Council of mid-July will seek to adopt/sign the European Soy Declaration. The Declaration calls on to produce more soybeans in Europe. The Commission provided production and trade data relating to soybeans. . COPA mentions that this issue should be widen to protein crops in general and not only to Soy as north part of Europe land Is not really adapted to soy cultivation

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