



Brussels, 14.01.2022  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS  
SHEEP- AND GOAT MEAT & BEEKEEPING SECTORS**

*Meeting via videoconference (Interactio)  
on Monday 29 November 2021 from 10:30 to 17:00*

Chair: European Commission, DG AGRI Unit G3 Animal Products

Delegations present: all organisations were present, except for AnimalhealthEurope, Bee Life, BEUC, BirdLife Europe, Eurogroup for Animals, ECVC, EFFAT, EMB, EPHA, ERPA, FoodDrinkEurope, IFOAM

**Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was not public.

**List of points discussed**

***Beekeeping***

**(1) Adoption of the agenda**

The Commission informed about the revised rules of procedure for Civil Dialogue Groups. Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1112 extended the current mandate of CDGs until the end of 2022. It was confirmed that even if CDGs are now chaired by the Commission the agenda will be drafted, as currently, in close cooperation with stakeholders.

**(2) Honey market with focus on imports (production, prices, trade)**

The Commission presented most recent market data. Imports from Ukraine declined slightly in 2021 compared to a strong increase in 2020. PL is the biggest importer of honey from Ukraine. Prices of imported honey have increased in general, except for China. Stakeholders raised concerns about the high exports of honey from Ukraine that seem not to correspond to production and domestic consumption in that country.

**(3) New apiculture interventions under the new CSP**

The Commission presented the main elements of the apiculture interventions under the reformed CAP and highlighted differences compared to the traditional apiculture programmes under the CMO Regulation 1308/2013. New interventions are in relation to changing climate conditions,

increase the number of beehives and promotion, communication and marketing activities. Stakeholders asked for clarification on several administrative elements of the new programmes.

**(4) Pollinators week –resume & conclusions – Beelife**

Beelife presented the main elements of this year’s pollinators week that focussed on wild pollinators and also honey bees. Exchange took place on interaction between agriculture and pollinators and in particular monitoring but also honey labelling and traceability.

**(5) Beekeepers interests & difficulties – Beelife**

Beelife and EPBA (European professional beekeepers organisation) presented their views on the reformed CAP. Bees are seen as core of the CAP. The new pollinator index as CAP indicator was highlighted as positive elements. Criticism was expressed towards new breeding techniques and the use of drones for applying pesticides in agriculture. There is a certain interest to exempt honey from front of pack nutritional labelling. Amendment of Honey Directive 110/2001 in relation to origin labelling of honey is considered positive. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for more research into bee diseases and medicines.

**(6) Update on the marketing standards review**

The Commission gave an overview on the process of review of marketing standards. Preparatory work (open public consultation, JRC workshop) is finished. Impact assessment is foreseen in 2022 as well as proposals for legislative proposals. In relation to improved honey labelling stakeholders highlighted the interest of introducing enhanced traceability for honey.

**(7) AOB**

No further points were raised by participants.

***Sheep and Goat***

**(1) Adoption of the agenda**

The Commission informed about the revised rules of procedure for Civil Dialogue Groups. Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1112 extended the current mandate of CDGs until the end of 2022. It was confirmed that even if CDGs are now chaired by the Commission the agenda will be drafted, as currently, in close cooperation with stakeholders.

**(2) Market situation with highlights on the world sheep trade**

The Commission presented most recent market data with special emphasis on the current world trade. The price situation for lambs on the EU market is extremely positive due to tight supply on the EU market but also the World market. EU sheepmeat imports declined, following the trend of last years and hampered by Brexit and ship trade disruption. Stakeholders welcomed the positive market situation, highlighted the link with lower imports and raised concerns that high inflation might impact negatively consumer’s demand. The potential of coupled payments to support the sheep sector was highlighted by stakeholders. Critical remarks were made in relation to live animal exports.

### **(3) EU-UK trade and TRQ apportionment**

The Commission presented the sheep meat trade developments with the UK over the period from January to August 2021. The UK is the third export destination for sheep meat, accounting for 16%, of total EU export volumes. It remained also the main import origin for sheep meat with 50%, of volumes imported into the EU. Although a decline in EU sheep meat exports and imports to/from the UK had been observed since January 2021, trade is normalising with gradually increasing volumes traded over the January-August period.

The Commission gave an overview of apportionment of sheep meat TRQs between the EU and UK. The principle of the joint approach used by the EU and the UK to split the EU WTO TRQs, was that the new EU-27 and UK volumes could not exceed the original EU-28 volumes. It further explained subsequent negotiation process undertaken by the EU and UK with the WTO partners having negotiation and consultation rights under WTO rules, which may lead to a further adjustment of certain TRQ quantities. It clarified that the negotiations were finished with Thailand and Argentina while negotiations with other WTO partners are still ongoing.

### **(4) Update on new CAP and Farm to Fork strategies**

The Commission presented the timeline of implementing the new CAP and the green targets and initiatives foreseen within the farm to fork strategy. Copa in general welcomed the green elements of the CAP and sees positive aspects for the sheep sector. However, also concerns were raised in relation to additional administrative burden for granting support to producers.

### **(5) Large carnivores – developments in the EU from the perspective of farmers and cooperatives –**

Copa presented an overview about the impact of increasing damages caused by large carnivores (bear, wolf, lynx, wolverine) in several Member States(AT, BE, DK, FI, DE, IT, LV, NL, SI, ES, SE, FR). Attacks are getting more numerous every year. Even if compensation of direct financial damages takes place it comes often late and does not cover increased production costs (protection measures). The social impact on sheep producers cannot be expressed in figures. Problems with predators keeps young farmers leaving the business. Copa called for a revision of the Habitats Directive, allowing hunting of large predators and develop additional EU funding to support breeders.

During the discussion it was highlighted that a revision of the Habitats Directive would improve the coexistence of large carnivores and animal keepers. However, the Commission recalled that the existing legislation provides Member States with the necessary tools to address possible conflicts between protected species and economic activities, as it was clarified in the recently adopted guidance on species protection under the Habitats Directive (covering also the possibility for derogations to the protection provisions). As regards funding for measures to improve coexistence, and namely to support livestock farmers and shepherds to improve protection of their grazing livestock, they fit clearly within the framework of the CAP objectives, as it was recalled in the joint letter by the Agriculture and the Environment Commissioners of 3-11-2021.

### **(6) AOB**

No further points were raised by participants.

**Next steps**

Publication of the minutes on [Agricultural civil dialogue groups | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/civil-dialogue-groups)

**Next meeting**

9 June 2022

(e-signed)

Michael SCANNELL

Enclosure:           **List of participants**

List of participants– Minutes  
**Meeting Of The**  
**«Cdg Animal Products**  
**Sheep- And Goat Meat & Beekeeping Sectors**  
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ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
EuroCommerce	1
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	9
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	3
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	2
European farmers (COPA)	5
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP)	1
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	5
Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire (FESASS)	1