



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and Observatories
G.2. Wine, spirits and horticultural products

Brussels,

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the « FORECAST WORKING GROUP ON "CITRUS "
OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP ON "HORTICULTURE, OLIVE AND SPIRITS

Date: 19 November 2018

Chair: Commission (Mr. Jesus GONZALEZ GARCIA)

Organisations present COPA-COGECA, SACAR, Eucofel

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

With an addition under Any Other Business (List of high-risk plants, plant products or other objects), the agenda was adopted. Point 3 of the agenda (10-year roadmap for the European lemon sector) was removed due to the absence of the relevant expert.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non public.

3. List of points discussed

Forecast campaign 2018-19

Compared with 2017-18, production of most citrus fruit is forecasted to increase in Spain: oranges (+13%), small citrus (+15%), lemons (+19%). On the other hand, grapefruit production is expected to remain stable. The start of season was affected by delays in fruit ripening of around 2 weeks, abundance of small sizes of early fruit, low demand in much of Europe due to hot weather in early autumn, and heavy rainfall in October that affected the quality of clementine. Although the season started with low prices, the market situation could improve thanks to the good quality of Spanish citrus fruit and the increase in consumption as the weather gets colder.

¹ If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

With the exception of small citrus (+37%), production in Italy is forecasted to drop compared with 2017-18: oranges (-7%), lemons (-8%). Recurrent summer heat and drought impacted on production and prompted phytosanitary problems. In addition, the recent heavy rain damaged new plantations and caused fruit drops. Good marketing prospects for blood oranges and late varieties were reported.

The start of the mandarin season in Croatia was sluggish, partly due to the strong impact of the Russian ban.

Production and export campaign in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres

The crop of the 2017-18 season in the Mediterranean countries was average and slightly lower than in 2016-17. Quality and consumption were affected by the mild weather in the first part of the season. Consumption recovered as temperatures got colder in the winter.

Prices for small citrus in 2017-18 were satisfactory due to moderate supplies, in particular in Spain. However, the Moroccan production continued to increase steadily (late varieties and early clementine). The season started with low prices caused by low demand in early autumn and the development of high quality varieties in the South Hemisphere. Prices in the late part of the season were more favourable.

The 2017-18 orange season was generally good but prices did not reflect the moderate supplies. The extension of the South-African season and the increasing volumes of Egyptian late varieties put considerable pressure on prices. Production in Egypt is highly competitive (low production costs, devaluation of the lira), and their exports are increasing dramatically.

Lemon registered favourable prices in 2017-18, mainly driven by a steady rise in consumption. Nevertheless, the continued increase in production worldwide (1.3 million tonnes more forecasted for 2022-23) create some uncertainty for the future.

Grapefruit production recovered slightly after the dramatic drop in the 2016-17 season. Whereas Turkey returned to average volumes, Florida suffered from the impact of hurricane Irma and the greening disease.

LIFE Vida project: Strategies for climate change & prevention of citrus greening in the EU

The LIFE project focuses on developing sustainable control strategies for citrus fruit under the threat of climate change, and preventing the entry of the citrus greening disease in the EU. Participants include 13 associations from 4 Member States, i.e. France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

List of high-risk plants, plant products or other objects

The new plant health law provided for in Regulation 2016/2031 will apply from 14 December 2019, i.e. 3 years after its adoption. The Regulation introduces changes in the plant health import regime in the light of scientific developments. This refers in particular to the list of high-risk plants and products, which includes the fruit *Momordica*. Other fruit including citrus fruit are not listed since they are sufficiently covered by the import requirements laid down in Directive 2000/29.

Some experts asked the Commission to strengthen the measures to prevent the introduction of harmful organisms into the EU, in particular by extending the scope of the aforementioned list to certain fruit and vegetables.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

5. Next steps

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for autumn 2019 (date to be confirmed).

7. List of participants - Annex

(e-signed)

João Onofre
Head of Unit

List of participants– Minutes

FORECAST WORKING GROUP ON "CITRUS"

Date: 19 November 2018

	MEMBER ORGANISATION	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	EUCOFEL	RIDAO-BOULOUMIÉ Alba
2	EUCOFEL	SANFELIU INMACULADA
3	European farmers (COPA)	ARETA Alvaro
4	European farmers (COPA)	AVIÑO MARTINEZ Jenaro
5	European farmers (COPA)	BJELIŠ ŽELJKO
6	European farmers (COPA)	BORRAS FRANCISCO
7	European farmers (COPA)	CORBALAN JUAN
8	European farmers (COPA)	FAULI Benjamin
9	European farmers (COPA)	Ferreira Horácio
10	European farmers (COPA)	VIGO Corrado
11	SACAR - Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunion / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations	IMBERT Eric
12	SACAR - Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunion / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations	Laudani Salvatore
13	SACAR - Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunion / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations	RODRIGUEZ REY