

Brussels,

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### ***MEETING OF THE «CDG ARABLE CROPS – COTTON, FLAX AND HEMP-DRIED FODDER, ENERGY & NON-FOOD CROPS »***

*Date: 1 June 2018*

Chair: Jean-Michel ASPAR, CELCAA

Organisations present: All organisations were present, except Birdlife, EBB, ECVC, EFFAT, ELO, Europa Bio, Fertilizers Europe, IFOAM.

#### **1. Approval of the agenda (and of the minutes of previous meeting<sup>1</sup>)**

The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda are approved.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public.

#### **3. List of points discussed**

##### **Morning Session**

##### **Market situation: production, trade figures for cotton, flax and hemp**

The COMMISSION presented the most recent production and trade figures.

COPA-COGECA highlighted the interest of EU producers to enhance sustainability standards for cotton as well as the water and soil management. COPA-COGECA also commented that the Spanish surface of cotton cultivation has been quite stable, with variation of not more of 10% from one year to another, with increases and decreases linked to dry/wet weather.

FOODDRINKEUROPE highlighted its concerns regarding the rules governing the use of agricultural surfaces in Spain and urged to change them in order to have more surfaces down to cotton.

CELCAA completed the Commission presentation with some more data on prices and production. CELCAA also highlighted an increase of demand probably linked to the bad reputation of synthetic fibres.

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<sup>1</sup> If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

PANEUROPE asked clarifications about the figures of organic cotton production at global level. CELCAA addressed the question, stating that the global production of organic cotton is around 0,6% of the total global production and has been stable for the last 20 years. An increase is observed in the production of cotton certified as sustainable: from 6-7% to 10-11%.

BEELIFE asked what are the sustainability criteria for fibres production. CELCAA replied that globally there are around 26 registered initiatives that aim at assessing the production standards.

FOODDRINKEUROPE confirmed a growing trend for organic production but highlighted the high costs involved.

### **Production estimates for the campaign 2018/2019 for cotton, flax and hemp**

COPA-COGECA reported some weather conditions that negatively affected cotton in the current campaign, which, nonetheless, should deliver good production levels.

### **CAP after 2020**

The COMMISSION informed the members that the draft proposal is now up for discussion within the two co-legislators and the process is moving fast because the objective is to adopt the final legislation before the end of the current legislature (July 2019). The COMMISSION explained the main changes and highlighted an enhanced simplification.

COPA-COGECA asked if the private storage for flax would be maintained. The COMMISSION confirmed that no change were made to the CMO and that the aid is maintained.

BEELIFE asked for clarification regarding the newly proposed greening rules and their implementation. The COMMISSION replied that the environmental safeguard is a priority in the draft proposal, which is very ambitious in term of greenings. Considering the drop in the EU co-financing for greenings, Member States will have to contribute more to respect the environmental targets set at EU level.

BEELIFE also underlined that water framework Directive represent a big challenge for cross compliance.

CELCAA highlighted how crop rotation is fundamental from an environmental point of view and that should be taken into consideration by the Member States.

### **Promotion of flax in third countries: state of play**

The COMMISSION presented the promotion policy program, which is led by the European Commission Consumers, health, Agriculture Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) and has a budget of 200 million per year to be deployed to support projects of promotion of agricultural products. All the relevant information can be found on CHAFEA website.

BEELIFE asked whether non tangible products were also eligible for promotion aid. The COMMISSION gave a negative response.

FOODDRINKEUROPE presented the project of the EU cotton alliances to promote the special characteristics and quality of EU cotton. Some national associations have come to the agreement to create the EU confederation to bring together all the members of the value chain with two objectives: find alignment and meet demands need of the market and immediately move to the creation of EU cotton trade mark to the EU agency.

### **Renewal of the authorisation of Thiadiazuron-Diuron and Gossipol content in cotton**

The COMMISSION confirmed that DG SANTE was asked to update the participants on the authorisation process of Thiadiazuron-Diuron. However, nobody from the DG SANTE was available to update the CDG participants and the COMMISSION stated that the renewal process is ongoing.

COPA-COGECA specified that the sector is asking only for the authorization of Diuron and not of Thiadiazuron.

### **Minor uses platform**

COPA-COGECA inquired whether the minor uses platform funds are still granted or if there has been cuts in the budget.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that the platform had a reduction in it's financing due to withdrawal of various Member states and that it is important that more financing should be made by Member States.

The COMMISSION highlighted that in the future CAP, specific funds for research are included and that they might be used to find specific solutions for minor crops needs.

COPA-COGECA underlined that it would be beneficial for farmers to have more money invested in the field of new plant breeding techniques as an alternative to genetically modified techniques. It's important invest in the research of alternative way of farming due to the constant decrease of active substances available for crop protection.

### **AOB**

FOODDRINKEUROPE presented the project of the EU cotton alliances to promote the special characteristics and quality of EU cotton. Some national associations have come to the agreement to create the EU confederation to bring together all the members of the value chain with two objectives: find alignment and meet demands need of the market and immediately move to the creation of EU cotton trade mark to the EU agency.

BEELIFE welcomed the project and proposed to join efforts to promote a bee-friendly EU cotton.

CELCAA underlined the fundamental importance of branding and marketing to appeal the costumer.

COPA-COGECA gave a presentation on the integrated production of cotton in Andalucía, Spain.

This integrated system allows for a cotton production more sustainable and respectful of the environment, allowing the decrease of agricultural inputs (- 52,63% compared to previous campaigns).

PANEUROPE wondered whether the pre- soil and post-harvest conditions were included in the field evaluation and COPA-COGECA replied affirmatively.

### **Afternoon Session**

#### **Market situation in cereals, oilseeds, sugar and protein balance sheet**

The COMMISSION informed the participants that the forecasts presented are mainly tentative projections for the marketing year 2018/2019, being based from arithmetical averages of last 3 years. Member States still have to update the areas figures for EU protein crops to finetune the balance sheets. The protein crops balance sheet is still under work and any comment is welcomed. The COMMISSION stated that in the future the feed uses should also be covered in the balance sheet.

COPA COGECA commented that the European oilseeds sector is heavily affected by the European policies on biofuels according to which, the duties on imports of biofuels from Argentina were reduced.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the farmers had witnessed a reduction in the production due to bans of crop protection compounds. COPA COGECA affirmed that the ban of the neonicotinoids reduced yields and field areas in Germany, UK and Poland. BEELIFE commented that there are not clear data on the impact of the neonicotinoids ban on the crops and affirmed that in the UK there has been no decrease in yields.

FOODFRINKEUROPE appreciated the inclusion of alfa-alfa in the protein crops balance sheet.

#### **Dried fodder: roundtable.**

COPACOGECA presented the current market situation, highlighting a good start of the campaign in Spain. Organic fodder's demand and production are increasing, especially in Germany.

Following a question of BEELIFE, COPA COGECA stated that around 30% of the total EU fodder production is exported.

#### **Ethanol balance sheet**

The COMMISSION presented the market situation for ethanol.

COPA COGECA underlined the importance of ethanol for farmers and beet producers, which use it's constantly increasing.

#### **OMNIBUS: review of the rules regarding EFA and voluntary coupled support**

The COMMISSION presented the new Ecological Focus Area (EFA) recently introduced in the framework of the Omnibus regulation.

The COMMISSION declared that that the last Delegated Acts of the OMNIBUS Regulation are still under discussion and should be published around mid-September to be applicable as from 2019.

#### **A protein plan for Europe**

The COMMISSION presented the EU protein plan, focusing on the most recent activities undertaken.

COPA COGECA appreciated that the project is moving forward and underlined the importance to improve the EU independence in proteins' production. In this regard, safeguarding renewable energy is essential.

EEB underlined that the protein plans should include grass as well, being a valuable source of proteins.

COPA COGECA stated that the farmers are finalising a recommendation paper on the topic and that it will be publicly available in mid-June, once endorsed during the annual organisation gathering.

CELCAA underlined that the plan should be focusing more on innovative applications and research.

### **Antidumping measures on biodiesel from Argentina and Indonesia.**

The COMMISSION reopened the anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of biodiesel originating in Argentina and Indonesia. In 2013 the COMMISSION imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on Argentinian and Indonesian imports of biodiesel, which was then partially annulled by the European Court of Justice. The relevant Notice is published on the Official Journal (OJ C 181, 28.5.2018)

COPA COGECA warmly welcomed the initiative.

### **Intermediate investigation anti-dumping on ethanol from USA.**

The COMMISSION did not provide any update on the topic.

### **Recast of the renewable energy directive: trilogue presentation of the position of COPA COGECA.**

EEB endorsed COPA COGECA call for investments and supports of renewable energies.

CEPM also supported COPA COGECA position, stating that a European support for biofuels is fundamental and that a promotion campaign should be put in place by all the stakeholders to achieve the minimum requirements requested by COPA COGECA.

#### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

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#### **5. Next steps**

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#### **6. Next meeting**

Next meeting will take place on **XXX**.

#### **7. List of participants - Annex**



List of participants– Minutes

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*Date: 1 June 2018*

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NAME	FIRST NAME
Bee Life-European Beekeeping Coordination (Bee Life)	Noa	SIMON DELSO
Confédération Européenne de la Production de Maïs (C.E.P.M)	Gildas	COTTEN
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	Hubert	BRISSET
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	Anton	ELLER
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	Enrique	GONZALEZ
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	Yann	MARTINET
European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)	Dario	ARIAS MARTINEZ
European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)	Francisco Javier	RODRÍGUEZ RIGUEIRO
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	Miguel	DEL MORAL DEL MORAL
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	Tomáš Ignác	FÉNIX
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	Andrea	ROZTOČILOVÁ
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	Joseph	RACAPE

European farmers (COPA)	Alexander	BACHLER
European farmers (COPA)	Alfonso	CASTILLON
European farmers (COPA)	Dominique	DEJONCKHEERE
European farmers (COPA)	Philippe	DUSSER
European farmers (COPA)	Bertrand	GOMART
European farmers (COPA)	Astrid	REWERTS
European farmers (COPA)	Michal	SOBCZYK
European farmers (COPA)	Archonti	SYNGIRIDOU
European farmers (COPA)	Christos	TSICHITAS
European farmers (COPA)	Eugenie	VAN DE BILT
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	Jean-Michel	ASPAR
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	Grobien	FRITZ ALEXANDER
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	Francesco	MIRIZZI
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	Lucia	SEGURINI
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Marie-Emmanuelle	BELZUNG



FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Eiko Jan	DUURSEMA
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Luca	IBELLI
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Antonio	JIMÉNEZ JIMÉNEZ
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Jean-Marc	JOSSART
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Mark	REINDERS
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Dimas	RIZZO
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	Antonios	SIARKOS
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)	Constantin	MURARU
	TOTAL:	35