

Brussels,

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group Arable Crops – Rice sector**

**2 July 2021**

Chair: Mr. Max Schulman (COPA-COGECA)

Organisations present: All organisations were present, except Bee Life-European Beekeeping Coordination (Bee Life), Confédération Européenne de la Production de Maïs (C.E.P.M), EuropaBio, European Biodiesel Board (EBB), European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), SACAR.

#### **Approval of the agenda**

Due to a delay by a speaker, the agenda was approved with minor changes in the structure.

#### **1. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public.

#### **2. Overview and exchange of views of the market situation (presentation by J. Smits, DG AGRI)**

The COM presented the market situation. Mr Tonoli (DG TRADE) briefly presented the state of play of the revision of the regulation 978/2012 (GSP). The inter-service consultation in the Commission should be concluded by mid-July, while the expected adoption by the College of Commissioners and submission to the EP/Council will be during the Q3 2021.

Mr Daghetta (COPA-COGECA) expressed the producers' concerns regarding the safeguard process and the imports of milled rice in small packages. He also asked the COM to follow the renewal process of the safeguard measures on Indica rice coming from Cambodia and Myanmar, asking to also enlarge the scope to Japonica rice. The COM representative, referring back to the market presentation that appears to show no economic case for renewal, replied that a separate dossier would need to be submitted to the Commission on Japonica rice.

Mr Carriere (FOODRINKEUROPE) presented the difficulties by operators to read and compare data with previous set of data, especially when UK used to have a big role in imports of rice inside the EU. In addition, Mr Downes (FOODRINKEUROPE) urged the COM to follow the trade negotiation under discussion between UK with Australia in view of Australian production of Japonica. COM acknowledged the difficulties with UK trade data, but said that this is a horizontal method that is also applied to other crops. Aside from that, the intra-EU trade (i.e. exports from UK to the EU27) for rice would also have to be

taken into account. Lastly, the COM re-assured the participants that rice is closely monitored as it is always regarded as a “sensitive commodity”.

### **3. Biodiversity in the rice fields (presentation by Copa and Cogeca)**

Mr Ferraris (COPA-COGECA) gave a presentation on measures that Italian rice farmers are already applying to protect and enhance biodiversity on their fields.

Mr Cirera (BIRDLIFE) welcomed the presentation and the efforts done by the rice framers to protect biodiversity. He asked to COPA-COGECA if it would be possible to have a presentation with data regarding the benefits of measures applied by rice farmers for biodiversity.

### **4. Presentation on the conclusion of Ente Risi**

Ente Risi presented the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> rice Forum.

### **5. CAP post-2020: presentation and exchanges of views on a) State of play of negotiations (C. Jeandin, DG AGRI)**

Ms Jeandin (COM) presented briefly the state of play of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) negotiation. After the political agreement reached at the end of June 2021, now the COM is working on the implementation of the political agreement. The objective is to finalise this last step as soon as possible, to give to Member States a stable and transparent outlook. Mr Major (COM) summarised the outcome on the CAP cross-compliant and greening. Regarding conditionality, a common agreement was quite quickly found, except for GAEC 2,4, 8 and 9. Eco-schemes have been expanded, also for animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance. The minimum budget will be 25% of direct payments. Regarding the direct payments, the three institutions agreed to use this tool to support those who need the most. Capping will be voluntary for member states and limited to income support. Convergence, which will unify the level of payments within Member States: those below 90%, will get extra funds.

In the National Strategic Plans, Member States will have to identify the sectorial intervention. Regarding the Common Market Organisation (CMO) regulation, reciprocity for imported products will be applied, especially on the environmental aspects, and marketing and production standards will be taken into account. In this regard, the three institutions have agreed to not have an article in the CMO in respect with WTO commitment, but there will be a declaration from the Commission, to work on tolerance on the plant protection products on residues. The three institutions will also work with international actors to make sure EU standards are respected; EP and Council call on the Commission to produce a report by June 2022 on import standards and reciprocity.

### **b) Risks and Opportunities for the Rice Sector in the Next CAP (presentation by Mr Alan Matthews, Emeritus Professor at Trinity University, Dublin)**

Mr Matthews gave a presentation on risk and opportunities for the rice sector within the future CAP especially regarding the need for rice producers to use eco schemes. On the latter, Mr Downes (FOODDRINKEUROPE) expressed his concerns regarding the time frame of the CAP and time to implement it.

### **c) Relations between CAP payments and Natura 2000 (DG AGRI Ms G. Marion)**

Ms Marion presented the relation between the CAP and Natura 2000. Mr Cirera (BIRDLIFE) asked clarifications about the calculation of compensation when rice farmers receive loss of production when they have to protect environment.

COM replied that the calculation of potential loss of production to protect environment/animals is taken into account in the calculation of the compensation.

## **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled in late Autumn 2021 and no indications on the format could be given.

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

### Guidance

*DGs should ensure that all participants in a given group are informed that the Commission would be processing their personal data. They should do this via the Privacy Statement that is not only published online, but is also provided individually to each participant (e.g. as part of the email where the DG first contacts the individual concerned).*

*The name of Type A<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> members and observers should always be included in the list of participants pursuant to Article 23 of Commission Decision C(2016)3301.*

*The name of Type C, D and E members' and observers' representatives may be included in the list, subject to their prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent (e.g. given in a consent form that they sign for that purpose at each meeting), in compliance with Article 3(15) and Article 7 of Regulation 2018/1725.*

*DGs have to be able to demonstrate that consent was obtained subject to conditions of Regulation 2018/1725 (i.e. keep a record that shows how the consent was obtained and whether it was valid).*

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals appointed in a personal capacity (C(2016) 3301, art. 7.2 (a)).

<sup>2</sup> Individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders (C(2016) 3301, art. 7.2 (b)).

## Disclaimer

*"The opinions expressed in this report represent the point of view of the meeting participants from agriculturally related NGOs at community level. These opinions cannot, under any circumstances, be attributed to the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the here above information."*

List of participants– Minutes

**Civil Dialogue Group Arable Crops – Rice sector  
2 July 2021**

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Alan Matthews	1
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	3
European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)	2
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	1
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	1
European farmers (COPA)	7