



Brussels,
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MINUTES CDG

Meeting of the CDG HOS – Spirit Sector

Thursday 4 November from 09:30 to 13:00

Chair: AGRI.E.2

Delegations present: All organisations were present except BEUC, ECVC, EFNCP, CELCAA, EPHA, PAN EUROPE, SACAR, Birdlife, TomatoEurope, IFOAM and EFFAT.

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The agenda was approved without changes.

No additional point was proposed for discussion under AOB.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public.

3. List of points discussed (the numbering below reflects that of the Agenda)

2. Spirit Drinks Regulation

a. Secondary legislation (in particular on Ethyl Alcohol of Agricultural Origin or EAAO) – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 explained that the text of the **Implementing Regulation** on the reference method for the analysis of EAAO had been recently finalised following an extensive technical exchange with laboratory experts of certain national customs authorities to which also sector's experts contributed.

After its submission to the national delegates of the Spirit Drinks Committee, who raised no objections, that text was subjected again to interservice consultation, following which it would be published in the framework of the Feedback Mechanism (done in the meantime on November 8 - deadline for comments: 6 December 2022) and submitted to the WTO for the TBT notification for a period of 60 days (done in the meantime on November 10 – ref. TBT/N/EU/934).

DG AGRI.E.2 informed also about the publication in the meantime of the **Delegated Regulation** amending the definition of and requirements for EAAO: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2022/1303/oj ⁽¹⁾.

spiritsEUROPE (FoodDrinkEurope) thanked the COM and confirmed that all major questions concerning the reference methods of analysis for EAAO had been clarified with the collaboration of their experts.

b. Possible new spirit drinks categories (potato and bread spirit) – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 explained that some Member States had expressed the need for the two following new categories to be added to Annex I to the Spirit Drinks Regulation (EU) 2019/787 to accommodate spirit drinks that are currently to be found on the market but are not specifically regulated:

- 1) **Potato spirit**, which only falls under category 9. Fruit spirit under certain conditions, while the requesting Member States deemed it necessary to extend those conditions to allow potato distillation to a higher alcoholic strength than allowed under category 9 (i.e. between 86% vol. and the alcoholic strength required for EAAO, which would result in Vodka under the conditions of category 15); and
- 2) **Bread spirit**, which would imply the distillation of a foodstuff that is not an agricultural product listed in Annex I to the TFEU, in breach of Article 6(1) of the Spirit Drinks Regulation requiring that all alcohol used for the production of spirit drinks must be of agricultural origin. Given that Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/787 contains another spirit drink category whose raw material is a non-agricultural product (i.e. category 13. Beer spirit) the requesting Member States consider that creating a new category providing for the conditions of production of bread spirit would be sufficient to legitimise it. The COM considers however that a specific derogation in this sense should be laid down in the Spirit Drinks Regulation to avoid confusion.

The requesting Member States had been reminded that the COM was not empowered to create new categories of spirit drinks by Delegated Act.

COGECA informed the COM that the proposal to create those new spirit drink categories was giving rise to divided positions. In particular, for bread spirit, some stakeholders wondered whether the distillation of bread that can no longer be sold in order to produce spirit drinks should be allowed at all.

DG AGRI.E.2 confirmed that spirit drinks should not be used as a tool of food waste disposal and that arguments by the sector would be carefully considered once the COM would be involved in the process.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1303 of 25 April 2022 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/787 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the definition of and requirements for ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin (OJ L 197, 26.7.2022, p. 71)

3. Low/no alcohol beverages

a. Study by DG AGRI – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 informed about the progress of the external study commissioned by DG AGRI on low/no alcohol (LNA) beverages, which was being carried out since the beginning of the year. The final report, expected by the COM services for mid-December, is due to be published at the beginning of 2023.

It was reminded that the study covered beverages with no or little alcoholic content increasingly offered to consumers as substitutes to alcoholic beverages such as spirit drinks and aromatised wine products (main focus of the study) but also beer, wine and other fermented beverages, including cider, perry and mead.

The objective of the study is to provide a clear picture of the current market situation concerning beverages with a lower alcohol content than the minimum alcoholic strength required for the alcoholic beverages they refer to, as well as a projection into hypothetical future production and consumption trends.

In particular, the study has been commissioned to investigate and assess the extent of the offer of LNA beverages, the way they are produced and labelled, the consumer's overall expectations, acceptance and understanding, as well as potential future developments, in view of evaluating the possible need for harmonised EU legislation in this regard.

spiritsEUROPE expressed curiosity about the conclusions of this study given the different interpretations emerged within the spirit drinks sector during the works on their recently published Guidelines on low/no alcohol beverages. As a matter of fact, spiritsEUROPE supports the growth of the LNA sector but it must be clear that spirit drinks categories and GI must maintain their strong protection while clear rules must be set out in view of avoiding that consumers are misled.

b) ALHAMBRA Project – EC update

HADEA presented the ALHAMBRA project, a service contract for the provision of support to Member States in studies and capacity building activities to reduce alcohol related harm, which was signed in 2020 for the duration of 30 months.

This service consists in the following 5 tasks:

- 1: Supporting Member States with knowledge gathering, best practices and capacity building in the area of alcohol related harm;
- 2: Study on alcohol online advertising and marketing in new media.
- 3: Study on the patterns of low strength alcohol consumption.
- 4: Study on alcohol health information/warning messages on and off labels.
- 5: Dissemination workshop with Member States presenting the results of the three studies (under Task 2, 3 and 4).

In line with task 5, a dissemination workshop will be held in Lisbon this 22 November to present the results of the 3 studies under tasks 2, 3 and 4 to 120 registered participants (<https://www.lisbonaddictions.eu/lisbon-addictions-2022/side-events>). Although registration is closed, additional slots can be made available upon request by mailing the contractor's team at alhambra.project@sicad.min-saude.pt.

In line with task 3, the report on the state-of-the-art overview of lower strength alcohol products is almost completed and is due to be published by March 2023. One of the preliminary findings is that reformulation of alcoholic products and substitution of alcoholic beverages with their lower alcoholic counterparts have been observed in line with the WHO call to replace products with a higher alcoholic strength with beverages with a lower ABV and to set up a price system that privileges products with lower alcohol content.

DG AGRI.E.2 asked to specify the extent of the substitution effect observed. In fact, from the AGRI study it emerges that the consumption of low/no alcohol beverages is so far limited to certain circumstances (e.g. drink & drive, during pregnancy, curiosity particularly from youngsters): would the HADEA study confirm this trend?

HADEA replied that the preliminary data available hints to additional consumption and that the substitution effect is indeed limited to certain categories and consumption settings.

spiritsEUROPE commented that it would be interesting to learn about the results of this study in the Lisbon conference and to compare the HADEA's with the AGRI's study. They were pleased to learn that the complexity of the substitution effect was taken into account as according to their information it was still very limited. Besides, it should be considered that the effects of alcohol are not due to its ABV alone, but rather to how it is consumed. In fact, the various alcoholic beverage categories have different standard portions. Moreover, spirit drinks are often consumed in combination with other beverages (mixers and cocktails) alcoholic strength to ABV levels that are often lower than beer. Finally, spirit drinks are a big driver for premiumisation which privileges quality over quantity and promotes moderation by itself, rather than by lowering their ABV. In this respect, **spiritsEUROPE** warned against the belief that lower ABV beverages are less dangerous and that substitution is the solution to the problem of alcohol-related harm, which has to be looked at in its vaster complexity.

COPA commented that it was difficult to comment on those preliminary results without full information on the study and asked to share the design and the sample selected for it.

HADEA provided the following methods used for the low/no alcohol study:

1. A scoping literature review reporting 70 publications and a literature review reporting 128 publications were the main sources of information for the report;
2. In addition, results of empirical analyses of household purchase data from Great Britain (just over five million purchases by 79,417 British households, 2015-2020) and Spain (1.29 million purchases by 18,954 Spanish households, 2nd quarter 2017 to end of 1st quarter 2022) are reported;
3. The content of the report was informed by 90 survey responses and 44 interviews with key informants from governmental, non-governmental and producer sectors at European and country levels (21 EU Member States);
4. The report was peer reviewed by six international experts and revised.

Federvini (FoodDrinkEurope) asked for more information on the goal of the ALHAMBRA project and the framework in which it was created and developed.

HADEA replied that, following a joint action that had taken place between 2014 and 2017, the COM had considered it appropriate to procure studies on the reduction of alcohol-related harm, which is the overarching objective of the 3 contracts currently running. Most of the contractors are public institutions working in the area of alcohol-related harm reduction.

4. GI Revision

a. Process – EC update

DG AGRI.F.3 presented with the aid of the slides provided prior to the meeting (and published both on CIRCABC and the EUROPA website) the purpose of the revision, the novelties it aims to introduce, the state of play in the Parliament and in the Council, the main issues subject to discussion and the timeline for adoption.

b. Key positions and policy requests by the spirit drinks sector

spiritsEUROPE presented with the aid of the slides provided prior to the meeting (and published both on CIRCABC and the EUROPA website) the main concerns of the sector on this file, namely:

- i. Producer groups: need to avoid interferences in status quo and from third parties and to complete the definition of ‘recognised producer group’;
- ii. Sustainability, i.e. core aim of the proposal: it should take into account ongoing efforts across policy areas as well as local conditions and remain voluntary (spiritsEUROPE announced that they would present initiatives in their Spirits Summit of 16 November and on their website);
- iii. GI protection: should be strengthened in consistency with the Spirit Drinks Regulation;
- iv. Role of EUIPO: in the sector’s view, only non-essential tasks that are positively defined (and limited) in the regulation should be conferred to it, while the COM should keep exclusive competence on the legislation, acceptance, opposition, cancellation and amendment of GI files.

DG AGRI.F.3 replied that the COM had an agreement with EUIPO, a Memorandum of Understanding for which a legal basis was not required.

DG AGRI.F.3 replied that the COM had an agreement with EUIPO, but it is now time to have a clear legal basis.

COPA-COGECA concurred with the comments of spiritsEUROPE and underlined that the a) role of EUIPO should be limited and clearly laid down in the Regulation, b) sustainability should remain voluntary, whereas the sectors was concerned about the absence of a definition of sustainability and the risk that the COM could impose it to producers in the future through delegation of powers.

BNIC (FoodDrinkEurope) expressed concerns about the big administrative burden represented by the proposed agreement to be given by producers groups to use GIs as ingredients and asked if there could be changes in the timeline.

DG AGRI.F.3 replied that the COM was aware of the burden that the request of approval to use GI names among the ingredients in other foodstuffs would represent and that this proposal might change and that the provided legislative timeline was what expected for the time being.

5. Consumer information

a. FIC Revision – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 read out the following text provided by **DG SANTE.A.1**, whose representatives were not able to attend the meeting:

- In line with the Farm to Fork Strategy and Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, the Commission is working on the revision of the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers.
- Our ambition is “to empower consumers to make informed, healthy and sustainable food choices”.
- This ongoing revision concerns front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the setting of nutrient profiles to restrict claims, the extension of origin indication to certain products, a revision of the rules on date marking (‘use by’ and ‘best before’ dates) and the labelling of alcoholic beverages.
- Like for all legislative proposals, an impact assessment is being prepared. It is based on scientific evidence provided by the European Food Safety Authority and the Joint Research Centre and consultations with citizens, stakeholders and targeted surveys with Member States, businesses, SMEs and consumer/health organisations.
- Some Member States have introduced national recommendations or legislation on front-of-pack nutritional, alcohol and origin labelling as well as regarding date marking.
- While, it shows the different approaches, based on dietary habits and consumer preferences in the different parts of Europe, majority of Member States agree that harmonised rules at EU level are preferable to national measures.
- It is important that a future EU proposal is balanced and of added value for European citizens and for our food businesses.

spiritsEUROPE commented that they were following this file very closely and shared the objective of improving consumers information to empower them to make better choices and asked what is the updated timeline, given that the work on the impact assessment seems to be ongoing.

COPA-COGECA asked to convey to DG SANTE their request to provide information on a study on consumers behaviour (different from the JRC study referred to hereinafter) that should be available in December 2022.

b. Health Warning Labelling – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 read out the following text provided by **DG SANTE.A.1** and **DG SANTE.B.4** whose representatives were not able to attend the meeting:

- In the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan the Commission expressed its intention to work towards health warnings on labels of alcoholic beverages.
- This initiative aims to increase citizens awareness of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption and will enable consumers to make informed decisions. Placing health information on alcoholic drinks and containers targets the appropriate audience (the drinker) at the appropriate time (when purchasing and using the product).

- In line with the Cancer Plan implementation roadmap, preparatory work and evidence gathering is currently taking place.
- Robust evidence needs to be gathered before the Commission can come up with any proposal.

On the Irish notification of Regulations on Health Warning Labelling:

- In June 2022, the Irish authorities notified under the FIC Regulation and under Directive 2015/1535 draft measures implementing Article 12 of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 (hereinafter basic Act) providing labelling obligations of alcoholic beverages.
- The 2018 basic Act was notified in 2016 (notification 2016/42/IE) and complementary provisions in 2018 (notification 2018/22/IE) to which the Commission provided comments. The basic Act was adopted and published in 2018 and provides for implementing measures to be adopted.
- The elements of the respective draft measures were assessed under the FIC Regulation for what concerns additional mandatory particulars for alcoholic beverages (health warnings) and under the TRIS procedure for what concerns mandatory particulars already harmonised by the FIC Regulation (nutrition declaration/energy value and alcohol content).
- Concerning the 2022 IE notification under FIC: only the exact wording of the 3 health warnings and the website address for public health information fall in the scope of this notification. The assessment addressed the necessity of the measures for the protection of public health and their proportionality to the public health objectives pursued, in light of their impact on the internal market.
- Commission services concluded that the Irish authorities have demonstrated that the notified measures are based on public health grounds and that the restrictions which ensue from these measures are proportionate to the aim pursued.
- The procedure under the FIC Regulation is closed since 22 September 2022 (3 months after the notification of the draft by Irish authorities) as the Commission did not issue a negative opinion, meaning that a tacit agreement was given.

spiritsEUROPE commented that they were also closely following the file on health warning labelling in light of the recent Irish notification. They expressed satisfaction to hear that the COM was gathering robust evidence before making any proposal. Consumers need accurate and meaningful information to make informed choices. Health warnings can have unintended consequences especially where consumers cannot distinguish between moderate and harmful alcohol consumption. Many Member States reacted against the notified Irish measures, which are tantamount to re-nationalising labels. Given the complexity of the issue it would be appropriate to rather provide more health information and advice. Moreover, it is necessary that such rules are laid down at EU level to ensure the integrity of the Single Market. Finally, the question is also whether physical labels are the best suited tool to convey such information.

Federvini complained about the absence of the services of DG SANTE, which hampered a meaningful discussion and asked about the relationship between the Irish notification and the work that DG SANTE is due to start to make health warnings on alcoholic beverages mandatory according to the EU Beating Cancer

Plan. They expressed surprise that although rules at EU level are coming up the COM remained completely silent on the Irish notification both under the TRIS and the FIC procedures, thereby allowing Ireland to adopt the proposed measures.

COPA also complained about the absence of DG SANTE.

c. JRC report on FOPNL – focus alcoholic beverages & digital consumer information – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 read out the following text provided by **JRC**, whose representatives were not able to attend the meeting:

- Labelling can help consumers make informed, healthy and sustainable food choices.
- On 9 September 2022, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) published the results of four scientific studies related to food information to consumers, among which on front-of-pack nutrition labelling and food information through other means than on labels, while analysing what is currently present on the market as regards the labelling of alcoholic beverages.
- The COM will use the findings of these studies as input for a proposal to revise the EU rules on the information provided to consumers as part of the EU’s ‘Farm-to-Fork’ Strategy and Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.
- Here are some of the findings relevant for the spirit drinks sector:
- Market analysis of the labelling of alcoholic beverages:
- Under the Regulation on Food Information to Consumers (FIC), alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2% alcohol by volume are exempt from the obligation to display a list of ingredients and a nutrition declaration on the product label. Business operators can nevertheless provide these on a voluntary basis.
- The JRC study found out that, in the EU-27:
- The possibility for the voluntary provision of ingredients and nutritional information on the labels of alcoholic beverages has been taken up by the alcoholic beverage industry.
- The beer industry stands out among the alcoholic beverages sector, with ingredient information on most (ca. 90%) beers on the market, and energy information to a lesser extent (ca. 25 to 50% of beer products).
- Ciders/perries and ‘ready-to-drink’ products carry comparable information in the EU. About half of the products hold ingredient information and up to 40% carry energy content information.
- Information on ingredients or energy is found less frequently on spirit drinks, and very rarely on wine products.
- Label attributes re-directing consumers to off-label ingredients and nutritional information are uncommon.
- Food information through other means than on labels, including digital means:
- The scientists conducted a literature review on alternative sources of food information available in the marketplace besides package labels. They looked

into how consumers use, understand, and are influenced by these information sources.

- These are the general conclusions:
- Results suggest that - because consumers value food information that is easy to process and useful – means providing direct access to food information in the marketplace, such as menu labels, shelf-labels, and point-of-sale signs, are better options to influence consumers towards healthier behaviours in comparison to online means that require external tools to access the information (i.e., QR codes or website links).
- The findings suggest that, if not provided on the food package, food information should be directly visible in the marketplace to be able to influence consumers.
- Adoption of an exclusive display of food information using digital means seems inappropriate due to lack of scientific evidence on how these means are used by consumers in the marketplace or on their behavioural effects.
- Online means seem to be an interesting tool to provide food information that goes beyond elements presented on packaging labels, such as complete list of ingredients or traceability information.
- Digital means, however, do not seem to be the best option to improve accessibility of food information that enables consumers to make informed food choices.
- There is a need for more research comparing the provision of food information through labels and digital means.

spiritsEUROPE, referring to its own slide on the JRC literature review on digital consumer information, provided prior to the meeting (and published both on CIRCABC and the EUROPA website), expressed irritation due to the fact that the scope of the study was limited to research published in 2013 (2 articles), 2015 (1 article) and 2019 (2 articles), evaluating thus a situation that is no longer reflecting reality after the big game changer of the COVID pandemic. The study does not reflect the current state of the consumers attitude today. Even only 2-3 years ago consumers were not used to use smartphones to scan QR codes to access digital information, which has changed radically in the period between 2021 and 2022. It is completely inadequate and incorrect to base the FIC Review on this study which does not reflect the current situation.

Federvini asked to convey their question to JRC as to whether they intend to revise their study to take into account what happened during the pandemic, when the whole EU population became accustomed to access QR codes and to show their green passes digitally. The bibliography of the study stops at 2019: it needs to be updated with recent data.

COPA-COGECA concurred with **spiritsEUROPE** and **Federvini**: it is fundamental that any policy recommendations stem from the premises of up-to-date literature review.

d. Implementation of spiritsEUROPE’s Memorandum of Understanding on consumer information – Update from the sector

spiritsEUROPE presented with the aid of the slides provided prior to the meeting (and published both on CIRCABC and the EUROPA website) the 2nd implementation report submitted to the COM and published in May 2022.

6. DG SANTE Mapping of fiscal policy measures on a.o. alcoholic beverages and spirit drinks

a. Observations from the sector

spiritsEUROPE, with the aid of the slides provided prior to the meeting (and published both on CIRCABC and the EUROPA website), commented that this report does not add any robust evidence to the ongoing debate. For instance, the evidence gathered in Greece was somewhat incorrectly presented in the mapping report because the increase in fiscal imposition led to an increase in illicit alcohol sales. **spiritsEUROPE** expressed concern about the overall quality of the findings that appear to be based on non-robust evidence and announced that they would elaborate their own review for the relevant services because in spite of political motivation, the factual real-life evidence does not appear to give a strong mandate to use tax policy as a targeted, efficient measure to reduce alcohol-related harm.

b. Next steps/process update – EC update

DG SANTE was not present and therefore could not present an update on possible next steps. Nonetheless, **HADEA** provided two documents that were published on CIRCABC (the summary report of the study and a presentation on main findings from the case studies).

7. Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive and implications for the spirit drinks sector – EC update

Due to technical problems, **DG ENV.B.3** did not manage to connect to provide the requested update. Hereinafter the summary of their envisaged presentation:

The proposal is part of the Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan. We were given a mandate to work on the generation of packaging waste and to revise our directive, because the packaging directive dates back to 1994 and things have changed a lot since then. The overall objective is to increase both the economic efficiency and environmental benefits of the packaging value chain. On this basis, we carried out the Impact Assessment and we received a positive opinion on it (from the Regulatory Scrutiny Board) last September. The draft Regulation we are currently working on is based on the preferred policy package in the Impact Assessment. The 1994’ Directive will become a Regulation because of a strong demand for greater harmonisation and a wide consensus of all stakeholders since a Regulation allows for uniform application of the rules. Regarding the main problems highlighted in the impact assessment and these problems are the main reason for this review of the 1994’ directive, four topics can be mentioned: the growing generation of waste and a high level of avoidable packaging, notably because of the increase of single-use and too much plastics; the barriers to packaging circularity with low recycling rates (particularly for plastics) and with confusing packaging labelling for consumers sorting; the low levels of uptake of recycled content; the fragmented markets that prevent cost-

efficient waste management in an internal market. These concerns are widely expressed by all stakeholders of the packaging sector. To meet these challenges, the main objectives of this Regulation are to prevent and reduce packaging waste and foster reuse ; to make all packaging circular (i.e. reusable or recyclable) by 2030; to increase the use of recycled plastics in packaging and prevent cross-contamination. Concretely, the proposal is based on a combination of EU harmonised measures that will be complemented by actions developed at Member State level considering the specificities of local situations. Different measures on waste prevention, reuse, packaging minimization, design for recycling criteria and labelling (i.e. for consumers waste sorting) are foreseen. But, as regards reuse, deposit and return systems should however not be obligatory for spirit drinks given the nature of the products. Idem considering recycled content targets that are foreseen only for plastics.

Federvini asked to confirm DG ENV's preference for re-use vs recycling as it appears from their leaked proposal and in that case to explain why. Moreover, Federvini asked to explain the difference between the draft proposal and the current directive in that before the thresholds were set at Member State level, while now they would be at company level.

After the meeting, **DG ENV.B.3** provided the following reply:

We cannot focus our efforts solely on recycling. Progress in recycling is being offset overall, mainly due to the increase in packaging waste generation, which is growing faster than GDP. Over the last ten years, packaging waste increased by +20.5 % when recycling increased by only 6.62 % to reach 64,4% for all materials in the EU in 2018 (60,4% in 2008). And we expect a further +20% jump by 2030 and +40% by 2040 of Packaging waste. We should also add that the amount of packaging that inhibits recycling has been increasing at a greater rate than the packaging waste generated, and reuse sharply declined. Moreover, a large (and growing) proportion of the packaging placed on the market cannot be recycled cost-effectively when recycling is hindered by quality problems, such as oil contamination of the material to be recycled and multilayer flexible composite packaging that are difficult to separate. This is why we need to further encourage waste prevention, including reuse, with targets for packaging waste reduction. This will be implemented by a waste reduction target at MS level and coupled with mandatory reuse targets for some selected packaging groups directed at economic operators. Quantitative re-use (and refill) targets would be established in specific sectors that have been assessed as having the greatest potential, namely food and beverages for take-away, major appliances and transport packaging. This was assessed based on factors such as existing systems for re-use and functional requirements in terms of containment, tidiness, health, hygiene and safety. And it should be placed on the economic operators to increase their effectiveness and equal treatment. As we recognise that this may be particularly difficult for small economic operators, targeted exemptions could be introduced.

8. EU Promotion Policy and the role of spirit drinks – EC update

DG AGRI.F.1 explained that the Impact Assessment had been completed and that COM internal discussions on the draft legislative proposal was still ongoing. Therefore the situation had not changed with respect to the previous CDG meeting in April and the presentation provided back then was still valid.

9. Revision of the CDG structure & the future of the CDG – EC update

DG AGRI.E.2 reminded that the minutes of the last Stocktacking meeting summarising the COM approach and containing a detailed Q&A part were transmitted to all CDGs via CIRCA. These minutes were uploaded again in CIRCABC and published on the EUROPA website. In the meantime the COM had opened the call for applications and all interested organisation were invited to apply.

spiritsEUROPE confirmed that organisations could submit applications by 29 November but asked for confirmation that there will only be 7 CDGs in the future and that the CDG specific to spirit drinks could be convened on an ad-hoc basis.

DG AGRI.E.2 confirmed that information and also that the CDG for spirit drinks scheduled for the afternoon of 19 April next year still stands for the time being.

10. AOB

None

2) Next meeting

The next CDG HOS – Spirit Drinks meeting is scheduled for 19 June 2023.
The final date and time will be confirmed by DG AGRI.

3) List of participants

See Annex

(e-signed)

Pierre BASCOU

List of participants– Minutes
Meeting of the CDG HOS – SPIRIT DRINKS
Friday 4th November from 09:30 to 13:00

ORGANISATION
EUROPEAN AGRI-COOPERATIVES (COGECA)
EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG FARMERS (CEJA)
EUROPEAN FARMERS (COPA)
FOODDRINKEUROPE (FOODDRINKEUROPE)