

Brussels,
[agri.ddg3.i.4\(2018\)7360257](#)

FINAL MINUTES
***Meeting of the Civil Dialogue Group ARABLE CROPS – CEREALS, OILSEEDS,
PROTEIN CROPS SECTOR***
Date: 07 September 2018

Chair: Max Schulman (COPA)

Organisations present: all organisations were present, except Bee Life, BirdLife Europe, EBB, ECVC, EFFAT, EURAF, EuropaBio, Fertilizers Europe and SACAR.

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

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

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was not public.

3. List of points discussed

Election of the Chair and the Vice Chairs¹

The candidates were Mr Max Schulman (COPA) for the Chair, **Mr Philippe Mitko (CELCAA) for a 1st term as Vice-Chair and Mr Paul Mesters (FoodDrinkEurope) for a 1st term as Vice-Chair. All candidates were elected.**

Market situation

The Commission presented the most recent data on the climatic situation, production and trade.

COPA and COGECA circulated their documents with the consolidated figures for the 2018 EU harvest estimates for cereals, oilseeds and protein crops. Their figures are in the same range as those provided by the Commission but with uncertainties on maize (yield, share of forage and grain maize).

CEPM commented that the EU total maize production forecasts were down on last year. Lower production in the EU15 was partly offset by Romania and Bulgaria. Current imports put pressure on domestic operators. DG AGRI replied that maize imports from Canada results from the CETA agreement (TRQs and customs duties will be progressively reduced in the coming years).

CELCAA/COCERAL indicated that their updated figures should be released by 20th September and forecasted higher maize imports. Wheat stocks are down worldwide except in the US said Coceral.

FEDIOL requested data on oleic sunflower that the Commission does not provide. It highlighted that the US are the only soya bean supplier worldwide for the EU as a result

¹ If not adopted by written procedure (CIRCABC)

of the trade war between US and China. FEDIOL commented that the figure of DG AGRI balance sheet on oilseeds of 9 million tonnes for sunflower crushing is too high, 7 to 8 million tonnes would be more realistic.

Pan Europe requested a separation of the figures for conventional and organic farming within the various balance sheets.

FoodDrinkEurope expressed concerns regarding the supply of oats. DG AGRI forecasts a total EU oats supply of 8.3 million tonnes and highlighted that Canada could supply oats thanks to CETA within a TRQ. COPA commented on the quality of oats and the increasing competition on oats for food and feed as a result of droughts and feed shortage.

COPA commented on the droughts, the EU policy on the reauthorisation and ban of PPPs (in particular weed control in Spain, insect/pest control in Austria) and the need for farmers to have a tools box at their disposal for managing risks.

US-China +EU trade war

The Commission presented the outcome of the meeting between Mr Trump and Mr Juncker on 25th July and highlighted that the working group is already in place and is working on industrial goods not agriculture. A mandate will be requested later from the Council for bilateral negotiations. The only commitment that the Commission has taken covers transparency on the origin of soya bean EU purchases. The Commission is monitoring closely US policy regarding compensation programmes for US farmers suffering from the trade war.

FEDIOL highlighted that the US is the sole supplier for the EU providing 300,000 tonnes per week, forecasted 10 million tonnes soya bean imports from the US this year. It thanked the EC for preserving soya bean trade with the US.

CAP post 2020

The Commission presented the Commission's legislative proposals on the CAP after 2020.

COPA commented that it opposed capping and degressivity of the basic support. It expressed concerns about distortion resulting from the national /regional CAP strategic plans and called for simplification for farmers and for the communality of the CAP.

EU protein plan

The Commission gave a state of play of the internal work. The results of the stakeholders' consultation were presented as well as the results of the workshops on research and innovation, environmental and agricultural benefits and market segments. The Commission informed the participants about the upcoming activities.

FEDIOL commented various quality of protein crops. Proteins from soya have the highest value. The EU self-sufficiency of that high value proteins is not realistic.

Environmental NGOs highlighted that alternative livestock systems exist which exclude soya as feeding stuffs.

STARCH EUROPE commented that investing in research and innovation is more efficient than granting subsidies for protein crops. It suggested that new outlets in food were emerging in addition to feed markets.

COCERAL commented that food security is based on world trade. EU self-sufficiency on protein crops is not realistic.

COPA highlighted that farmers need alternative crops to diversify rotation.

Level of erucic acid in vegetable oils

The Commission provided context and the state of play of the file. In a nutshell, the maximum levels of acid erucic in vegetable oils and food containing vegetable oils is fixed at 50 g/kg and 10 g/kg for infant formulae (Regulation 696/2014). In November 2016, EFSA issued an opinion showing that there are no major health concerns with the level of erucic acid detected on the market. DG SANTE consulted the stakeholders in May on a proposal to set the maximum level at 20 g/kg for vegetable oils and fats, 4 g/kg for infant formulae and 30 g/kg for mustard. The topic was discussed in the standing Committee. The maximum level should be reduced from 50 to 20 g/kg except for mustard, camelina oils and borage oils. For infant formulae, the maximum level should remain at 10 g/kg and for mustard at 35 g/kg. The matter will be discussed again in the Standing Committee in mid- September.

FEDIOL thanked DG SANTE for having taken the stakeholders' arguments (on the general level and on the exemptions) into consideration.

Chlorothalonil

The Commission provided a written contribution made available through CIRCABC.

AOB

- Copa requested to set the date of the meeting well in advance and avoid changing the date at short notice.
- Copa requested the date of the Crops Market Observatory and the provisional dates of CDG for 2019.

List of participants– Minutes
Civil Dialogue Group **ARABLE CROPS – CEREALS, OILSEEDS, PROTEIN CROPS SECTOR**
 Date: 07/09/2018

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NAME	FIRST NAME
Bee Life-European Beekeeping Coordination (Bee Life)		
Stichting BirdLife Europe (BirdLife Europe)		
European Council of Young farmers (CEJA)	PASTRANA GARCIA	Gonzalo
	SKODA	Vitezslav
	BROUWER	Roelofina
European Liaison Committee for Agriculture and agri-food trade (CELCAA)	MITKO	Philippe
	HOFLAND	Peter
	SOMMER	Andreas
	BALKHAUSEN	Oliver
	DALLA BONA	Cristina
	AXIODIADES	Iliana
Confédération Européenne de la Production de Maïs (C.E.P.M)	CALDUMBIDE	Matthieu
European agri-cooperatives (COGECA)	SCHULMAN	Max
	ISAMBERT	Jean François
	REWERTS	Astrid
	OLÁH	Endre
European farmers (COPA)	HAMBLY	Michael
	LEIDWEIN	Andreas
	JÍROVEC	Ludvík
	MOSCARITOLO	Leonardo
	GALLARDO BARRENA	Pedro Ignacio

	BROWNE	Mark
	PALHA	José
	GRABINSKY	Jerzy
	JØRGENSEN	Søren Thorndal
	DEJONCKHEERE	Dominique
European Biodiesel Board (EBB)		
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)		
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	SLABE	Anamarija
European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)		
European Landowners' Organization asbl (ELO asbl)	ROCHA	Ana
European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)		
EuropaBio		
Fertilizers Europe		
FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope)	SCOZZI	Gabriella
	PIANU	Piero Luigi
	JACQUES	Juliette
	VANMARCKE	Geert
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Regional Group (IFOAM EU Group)	THOERING	Alexandra
	BARBOSA	Barbara
Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe)	MURARU	Constantin
SACAR - Secrétariat des Associations du Commerce Agricole Réunies / Joint Secretariat of Agricultural Trade Associations (SACAR)		
	Total:	33
