

## **Report of the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Animal Products sector “Poultrymeat and Eggs”**

**Date of meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Chairing the meeting: Paul Lopez

Commission Services represented by DG AGRI and DG SANTE

### **1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

The agenda was approved as circulated. The minutes were approved with two changes proposed by the representative of environmental NGOs:

page 5, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, concerns 8. Campylobacter

*“The representative of environmental NGO's said that there is so little naturalness about intensive poultry production from hatchery to slaughterhouse and so much chemistry in the whole feed and animal production that chemical decontamination at the end makes no significant change.”*

page 3, second paragraph, concerns 5. Marketing standards :

*“add after adequate labelling, e.g. avoid mixing up with the free range label, when fattening is finished in cages.”*

### **2 and 3. Market Prospects – Latest information on the market situation for poultrymeat and egg and feed market and Medium term outlook of the poultry sector**

Two representatives from the Commission’s services (DG AGRI) presented the market situation for poultry meat and egg market, following the slides sent out to the members of the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA and [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index_en.htm). The key points presented were as follows:

In 2016, poultry consumption in the EU is expected to increase by 1% from 13.036 to 13.170 million tonnes (c.w.e). EU Broiler production is expected to increase by 1.7 % (11.504 million tonnes) in 2016. EU turkey production is expected to increase by 0.6% (1.977 million tonnes). On the other hand EU duck and rabbit production are expected to decrease by 1.1% (497 thousand tonnes) and 3.9% (233 thousand tonnes), respectively.

The weekly EU average broiler price has been below the EU average price of the last five years, when compared with historical records (around €176/100 kg). Moreover, it is expected to increase in the coming months reflecting a seasonal upwards trend until the high consumption season (summer).

Imports of poultry meat (carcass weight) in 2015 increased by 3.1% (871 thousand tonnes) when compared to the same period of last year. The main sources of poultry meat imports in 2015 were Brazil which accounted for 57.2% and Thailand 31.4%. In 2015, exports of poultry meat (carcass weight) from the EU decreased by 0.9% when compared to the same period of last year. The major recipients of EU exports were South Africa which accounted for 14.3%, Saudi Arabia 9.6% and Benin 9.2%.

In the rabbit meat sector, the price of the rabbit fur has come down drastically, and consequently the price of meat is more expensive which does not help consumption. Some foresee significant problems in the future and reduction of production in the summer months.

Egg consumption in 2016 is expected to increase by 1.4% (101 tonnes) from 7.238 million tonnes to 7.339 million tonnes. The production of eggs is expected to increase by 1.7% in 2016 (7.677 million T). In the first weeks of 2016 the weekly price of eggs was below the average of the last 5 years (2011-2015). The price is expected to increase in the coming weeks due to the higher consumption period as we get closer to Easter.

In 2015, export of eggs and egg products increased by 21.4%, mainly due to a 46,000 tonnes increase to the US due to their avian influenza outbreaks. Therefore it is possible that once the animal health situation is back to normal EU exports to the US may return to more modest figures.

### The animal feed market

The representatives from the Commission's services (DG AGRI) presented the market situation for the feed market, following the slides sent out to the members of the CDG prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA and [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index_en.htm).

### Medium term outlook of the poultry and egg sector

The representatives from the Commission's services (DG AGRI) presented the medium term outlook of the poultry and egg sector, following the slides sent out to the members of the CDG prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA and [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index_en.htm).

### Exchange of views

Taking in consideration the conclusions of the forecast group, some participants underlined key factors that will keep the poultry sector under significant pressure in the near future.

- Increased pressure from imports (e.g. Thailand, devaluation of Brazilian currency, cheap imports from Ukraine);
- The EU has little access to key poultry importers (e.g. Benin and Nigeria are almost closed down. No exports to Mexico, uncertainty in Saudi Arabia. China and Hong Kong may reduce intakes in the future);
- Following antidumping cases, South Africa is launching 'safeguard' procedures ;
- Following recent outbreaks of avian influenza, US will come back to the world market;
- The low price of certain meats is putting pressure on the entire meat sector;
- There is a lot of poultry product on the market;

Furthermore, the representative of the producers described the difficult situation in the rabbit sector, following a steep decrease in the price of the rabbit fur (30%). The EU rabbit sector is currently facing major challenges, one of the most worrying is the continued decline in consumption of rabbit meat, both in the households and in the HORECA channel. This is partly due to the fact that the consumption of this meat is particularly concentrated in a population of a certain age. When these generations disappear, and if the current consumption trends continue, demand will be reduced very drastically, thus reducing production and leading to the disappearance of the sector. Other factors are contributing to the decline of production, such as the abuse of the dominant position of the slaughterhouses and large retailers. In spite of the fact that in certain seasons the offer is not enough to cover the demand, the prices paid to producers is not increasing as expected. This is a minor sector but represents an important alternative for certain regions where other kinds of production did not take roots. He concluded by stating that Rabbit meat has excellent nutritional qualities and its consumption should be encouraged.

The representative of egg packers, egg traders and egg processors described the crises in the egg sector and underlined the importance to pay attention to the agreements with Mercosur and USA. He underlined the importance of the export market for albumen. He continued his intervention by noting that further increase of legislation and/or lower import levies, or greater market access

would be translated into a weaker competitive position for the EU egg industry. Therefore it is essential to classify the egg sector as ‘sensitive’ in the ongoing free trade negotiations.

Concerning the different quotas provided to third countries, the representative of poultry processors and poultry trade underlined that the current exchange rate is very favourable to Ukraine and Russia, which are able to fulfil the full TRQ. On top of the capacity to supply frozen meat, Ukraine is able to deliver fresh meat to the EU market, due to its privileged geographical proximity. Therefore it is essential to classify poultry as a ‘sensitive’ sector in the ongoing free trade negotiations (e.g. TTIP, Mercosur, Thailand) and respect the single pocket approach. It is of utmost importance to find the right balance between reduced duty and duty free and look for an equal and fair allocation between different cuts (e.g. whole, cut with bone and boneless).

The representatives of producers pointed out that Ukraine filled in its entire TRQ and the EU exports towards this country are decreasing drastically due to the current instability, currency devaluation and economic recession. In addition the EU imports 25% of “Chicken fillets” and we should not be happy with it, especially because we export less value when compared to imports. All imports must respect all EU standards of production.

The representative of environmental NGOs stated that the increase of imports have a full potential to destabilize the market. She continued her presentation by calling on the Commission to deliver in the next presentation some data concerning the impact of imports in the internal market and the impact of support provided to third countries. She also suggested that support of Rural Development programs should be subjected to criteria applied according to method of production. She continued by pointing out that in principle exports to the EU should respect EU regulations and the slaughterhouses of third countries should be inspected by the FVO.

The Commission clarified that following the introduction of regulation on laying hens the production of eggs recovered at a faster pace than expected. The production increased in 2016, leading to lower prices which will make us competitive in terms of exports. One way to mitigate low prices is to decrease production.

The Chairman concluded by asking the participants to contact their national authorities in order to provide the necessary and reliable information on time. He also called on the Commission to pay particular attention to the market situation in the next months.

#### **4. Old laying hens markets and exports to Africa**

The representatives of producers from the affected member states informed on the current situation. In some member states (e.g. UK, ES, DE, HU, PT, FR) the old hen market has depressed strongly in prices, and more important, in quantity. Exports of old laying hens, in particular to Benin, are decreasing and this is putting pressure on the overall price of the carcass. The poultry meat (carcasses, wings and legs) exported to Benin is resold from there to various other countries in West Africa. The largest amounts went so far to Nigeria, although there is a general ban on imports of poultry meat products. Unfortunately there are no specific CN codes for carcasses of reformed laying hens. Exports of these animals are counted with exports of chicken carcasses, therefore there is a serious lack of concrete statistical information and market information. Following a roundtable discussion the group called on the Commission to follow this issue very carefully and to reflect on:

- Engaging in all diplomatic efforts to find a sustainable and mutually beneficial solution;
- Finding alternative markets;
- Removing temporary restrictions following outbreaks of avian influenza;
- The introduction of the safeguard clause on poultry products by South Africa;
- Building up market intelligence;
- Promoting the “EU model of production” based on high standards;

The Commission representative presented an overview of the exports to African destinations. This is a region that is expected to grow very quickly in the next ten years, where a massive quantity of

young consumers are expected to enter the market in the near future. This represents great opportunities and also great challenges for the EU Agri-food exports. Commission has been negotiating a series of free trade agreements with many African countries. There are good market opportunities in Africa but there is also the need to develop training, farm managing, HACCP controls, etc. Overall, African destinations became very important for EU exports => 42% of the total EU exports of frozen carcasses and cuts. Some additional points were put forward:

- Gradual increase to ECOWAS countries (13.4-17.4% of all EU exports): key destinations in 2015 are Benin (8.2%), Ghana (4.7%), Liberia (1.4%), Togo (1.3%), Guinea (0.4%)
- Significant increase to South Africa (1.8%-16.8%)
- Gradual increase to Congo (1.3-2.4%), Gabon (1.4-2.4%),
- Unstable trend to Congo Dem. Rep. (1.9%)
- Decrease to Angola (1.4-0.8%)

The representative of poultry processors and poultry trade underlined the importance of quickly tackling the safeguard clause on poultry products raised by South Africa. In the last years, South African authorities have raised a series of obstacles to EU imports, which may help other competitors to take market share and to have an impact on the price of poultry in South Africa. On top of this, the delegate reminded that 3 MS are subject to antidumping duties.

The representative of EU producers emphasised the importance of the old laying hens market for EU producers, helping producers to get some compensation for a product that some years ago represented a cost. In several member states producers are trying to find alternative uses for this product, such as transformation (e.g. pies, sausages).

The representative of egg packers, egg traders and egg processors stressed that the disposal of old hens is absolutely vital for the internal market. In the UK, the selling prices are 30% lower than normal and the cold stores are full of this meat. This situation is aggravated by barriers being put in place by certain third countries due to recent Avian Influenza outbreaks. UK producers are struggling to move this product around the market.

The Commission official informed that DG trade (unit anti-dumping), assisted by DG AGRI and other Commission services, will lead the EU's response to the safeguard clause. The Commission will assess whether South African is following the official procedures, but this will certainly take some time. Their position is that there has been substantial imports of poultry in the past and the development of their industry has been constrained due to the level of imports. He also challenged participants to consider to invest seriously in West Africa as a way of preserving revenues and taking advantage of this market opportunities.

The Commission official advised the participants to take into account the political context in Nigeria. The oil prices are coming down, putting pressure on national finances, the Government has changed policy and has put in place a special program to prevent smuggling from Benin. The Commission is engaging with the Nigerian authorities and will be looking at the correct implementation of the partnership agreement, but poultry is excluded from this agreement. Concerning the question regarding the simplification of CN codes, the Commission will reflect internally on the need to create a special code for old hens.

The representative of environmental NGOs alerted to the impact of industrial agricultural model in the development of Africa and their impact in jobs. She continued by asking about the impact of the exports of old laying hens on the African poultry market.

The Chairman concluded by stressing the importance of export markets for the sector and reminded that there is no EU support for export refunds.

## **5. State of play on the reintroduction of processed animal proteins (PAPs) to poultry**

The representative from the Commission's services (DG SANTE) presented the current state of play. The Reference Laboratory is undertaking a study to find a method that would avoid cross-

contamination and cannibalism. The first results have produced a high number of false positives, and a solution is not expected to be found before next year. Therefore until a reliable method is found the Commission is not in a position to give authorisation for reintroduction. Nevertheless and having in mind the previous reintroductions (authorisation of PAPs for fish), Commission is ready to proceed with the authorisation procedure once a reliable method is found.

## **6. State of play on alternative meat poultry production in Europe**

The representative from ITAVI presented the state of play on alternative meat poultry production in Europe, following the slides sent out to the members of the CDG prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA and [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index_en.htm), focusing her presentation on the main producing countries, due to the lack of concrete statistics for free range and organic production. The key points are:

- Alternative production: a blurred perimeter;
- A small part of chicken production with an outdoor access : 2 to 4% in most countries, 5% in the UK, 16% in France...;
- A production development "indoor +" with low densities and environmental enrichment in Northern EU;
- Data only available for organic production;
- But a lot of countries data are missing;
- No data for extensive indoor & free range productions;
- No data on commercial channels for these alternative productions;
- A need for a better monitoring of the supply and demand of "alternative products";

The representative of European rural poultry producers proposed to set a up a better statistic system for these production systems, starting with a system to have a better picture of the situation. This representative underlined that these production systems are expensive and demanding but many other brands are being developed and are growing. Marketing standards should reflect the specificities and requirements of these methods of production in order to better inform the consumer. The delegate also proposed to revise the definition of slow breed.

The representative of environmental NGOs proposed this study to cover other minor species as well, such as fowls and ducks. The representative continued her intervention by emphasizing that:

- in opposition to what has been said in the presentation, certified broilers in France cannot be considered to be in the category "extensive indoors", because certified French broilers have a density of 18 birds/m<sup>2</sup>, whereas "extensive indoors" is limited to 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>;
- certain labels finish the birds in cages though they are labelled free range. The period in the cage is extremely stressful for the birds. This practice deceives the consumer and should be abolished;
- other poultry species should be considered;
- the winter garden should be taken into account;

The representative of producers agreed that it is a good idea to have diversity in production. He reminded that there are 5 types of farming and all of them need to comply with specific criteria, as all methods are complementary and respect high standards providing a product of quality. In his opinion these rules are sufficient and allow private operators to innovate. It is vital that the ongoing administrative simplification keep criteria, inspections and controls. Inspections should be done by an independent certified body that assures that consumers believe in the integrity of product.

The Commission thanked the idea of setting up a study on alternative methods of production and assured that it will assess its feasibility in the near future. The Commission clarified that the marketing standards are not designed to be a political tool to influence consumer behaviour. They are useful to make consumer decisions.

The Chairman concluded that most organisations would like to see small changes but would also like to keep most of the things we have in marketing standards. The CDG should follow very closely this issue and revisit the subject when the conclusions of the study would be available.

## 7. Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement with Ukraine

The representative from the Commission (DG AGRI) presented the implementation of the deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with Ukraine (DCFTA) signed in 2014. The trade part of the agreement entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

EU Concessions:

Poultry meat and preparations	16.000-20.000 T	Linear Increase over 5 years
Poultry meat (frozen carcasses)	20.000 T	
Egs and albumins	1.500-3.000 T	Linear Increase over 5 years
Eggs-additional (eggs in shells)	3.000 T	

Ukrainian Concessions:

Poultry meat	8.000-10.000 T	Linear Increase over 5 years
Poultry meat (frozen carcasses)	10.000 T	

The DCFTA foresees that Ukraine shall submit to the Commission an agreed comprehensive strategy to gradually align its sanitary-phytosanitary legislation to that of the EU serving as a reference document for the implementation of SPS and animal welfare rules including timelines for implementation. The Commission will carefully follow the approximation process of the Ukrainian legislation.

The representative of animal welfare NGOs noted that there is a huge gap between the EU and Ukraine in terms of animal welfare.

The representative of poultry processors and poultry trade stated that in the Ukraine the EU is financing the expansion of Ukrainian poultry meat producers. In fact, the Ukrainian quota is divided between a few Ukrainian major companies. The question is how the quotas will be managed and assurance given that standards, which are very different between EU and Ukraine, will be respected.

The representative of producers informed that in Poland wholesale product has been sold in retailers with few control. She also mentioned that funds from European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are being used in poultry farms in Ukraine. She asked whether these funds include provisions to make investments on animal welfare? Ukraine is investing more in conventional cages, but our support should prevent investments on production in conventional cages.

The Commission informed that Ukraine was authorized to sell table eggs in 2015, but there is no record that table eggs from Ukraine entered EU territory in 2015.

The representative of egg packers, egg traders and egg processors urged the Commission to assure full reciprocity and assure fair trade. The EU egg sector has invested €1.5 billion to change from conventional to enriched cages. He went on to ask that the Commission to provide details of how the Ukraine has agreed to align its welfare standards for laying hens at the next meeting.

The Commission clarified that the Commission managed to assure quotas systems for all sensitive products and the TRQ on eggs provided to Ukraine represents less than 1% of the EU egg market.

Concerning microbiological risks, fresh poultry meat has to comply with Regulation (EU) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs, amongst others: "Absence of Salmonella

Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in 25 g". Regarding Salmonella requirements to export eggs, day-old-chicks or hatching eggs to the EU, the submission of a National Salmonella control programme equivalent to EU standards is mandatory for third countries.

If in the future Ukraine will express interest to export to the EU other poultry products than the above mentioned poultry meat, than according to legislation in force, the submitted control programmes in well-defined animal populations shall be equivalent to the EU standards as one of those conditions of export authorization according to Regulation 798/2008.

## **8. State of play on recent outbreaks of avian influenza (AI) and export restrictions by third countries**

The Commission representative (DG SANTE) provided a state of play on the epidemiological situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the EU. The situation is very complex due to the increasing number of different virus subtypes causing infections in the EU and worldwide. EFSA is expected to deliver a scientific opinion on AI by the end of 2016.

The Commission representative (DG TRADE) informed on the list of third countries that had imposed restrictions following these outbreaks. The Commission also informed that Commissioner Hogan is set to visit Japan and China in 2016 and will raise the issue of regionalisation and also within the OIE (please check we do not recall this statement on OIE).

The producer representatives of the affected Member States summarized the current epidemiological and market situation. They continued informing on the eradication plans and described the epidemiological situation as stable. These delegates pointed out the importance to support financially producers during this period and the need for the Commission to maintain the pressure on third countries to respect the three months period (period that according to OIE standards third countries have to remove restrictions following the cleaning of the site of the last reported outbreak).

## **9. State of play of the European Commission proposal for Regulation on transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Law")**

The Commission representative (DG SANTE) provided a state of play of the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases, which is the main instrument to implement the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013), following the slides sent out to the members of the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) prior to the meeting and available on CIRCA and [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/index_en.htm). The objective is to simplify existing rules and align with Lisbon Treaty. The adoption by the European Parliament and the Council is expected by early March 2016, which could lead to the publication in the Official Journal by April 2016. Once published the Commission would work on the delegated and implementing acts in the next 5 years. The implementation is expected as from 2021.

The representative of egg packers, egg traders and egg processors noted that we should be looking to have control measures that reflect the effectiveness that vaccination (e.g. for Newcastle Disease) had in the last years. Furthermore there are differences on how Member States implement measures to control diseases such as avian influenza, the delegate would like to see standardization across member states as soon as possible. It would be very important for the egg industry to see the definition of 'country free' status in OIE (90 days) clarified and simplified, with the contribution of Commission, Member States, USA and other key partners.

The producer delegate underlined the difference of compensation in affected areas and asked for clarification.

The Commission clarified that the differences in approaches and interpretations of the OIE chapter concerning avian influenza are under discussion between chief veterinary officers, but additional scientific input on the occurrence of avian influenza which EFSA will address. Concerning compensation, two mechanisms are available 1) the expenses directly linked to the

managing of the disease, covered by the emergency fund managed by DG SANTE. and 2) exceptional market support measures are managed by DG AGRI. The last is a mechanism of compensation that is paid to the affected farmers, but there must be a clear link between the affected farmer and the compensation. The member states send the request for compensation and the Commission will look at it. Payments have been made for example in 2006 (major epidemic), and later on to requests from Italy and Netherlands.

#### **10. State of play of the European Action plan against rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance**

The Commission representative (DG SANTE) was not able to attend the meeting due to sickness.

#### **11. Recent developments on veterinary medicinal products**

The Commission representative (DG SANTE) provided a quick update on the proposal for a regulation on veterinary medicinal products. This package consists of regulation on veterinary medicines and regulation on medicated feed. On 10 March, the European Plenary provided the mandate to enter into inter-institutional negotiations on the veterinary medicinal products proposal. Negotiations in the Council started in January 2016 under the NL Presidency.

The representative of manufacturers of veterinary medicines and animal health products believes that this proposal is a step forward. Nevertheless it is still behind the threshold. In terms of trials using GMOs vaccines, animals are not allowed to enter the food chain, therefore the delegate believes that the proposal should reflect this.

The producers representative asked the Commission to improve the availability of medicines for minor species.

The Commission clarified that there are currently 20 GMOs medicines approved in the EU. These amendments need to be renegotiated with the European Parliament.

#### **12. State of play of welfare of male chicks, broiler slaughter stunning problems, housing systems for pullets (cages) and hens (lack of litter)**

The representative of the animal welfare NGOs introduced the subject by providing her views on the current welfare of male chicks, broiler slaughter stunning problems, housing systems for pullets (cages) and hens (lack of litter).

The representative of environmental NGOs stated that the substrate for litter is frequently lacking in cage and non-cage systems (France). She continued her intervention by asking the Commission to provide transparency on the impact of subsidies on the market (e.g. EAFRD funding for animal housing).

The representative of egg packers, egg traders and egg processors went through the current practices in the welfare of day-old chicks (for egg production) and underlined the difference of practices between the present day and what was widely used in the past. He mentioned that infra-red beak treatment is conducted in the hatcheries at day old and that Mareks vaccination is also given to chicks at the same time. He referred that, for example, trimming of some white breeds may no longer be necessary because some white breeds can be more docile, but in other (brown) breeds it may be too early to stop. Trials have been taking place in some countries. An important point to note was that the industry does not want to beak trim as this is an economic cost. However, beak treatment is carried out to protect the welfare of the birds. He also reminded that the sector is not supported by the CAP and some consumers have clear preferences among different breeds.

Concerning the disposal of male day old chicks (for egg production), pullet hatcheries humanely cull the male day old chicks using either argon or CO<sub>2</sub>, or a mixture of argon/CO<sub>2</sub> gas. The chicks are then frozen and provide a valuable feed source for zoos, birds of prey, etc. Research is looking



at being able to sex the embryos. Around 10/11 days of incubation the nerves are developing. One piece of research work is looking to see if the embryo can be sexed at about 3 days of incubation. It requires the removal of a small portion of the egg to be able to insert a needle to take a sample. Another piece of research is looking at being able to sex the eggs before they are placed in an incubator using detailed camera imaging. In order to be commercially viable, it is necessary to scale this up to at least 30,000 eggs per hour.

Pullet rearing in a cage system cannot be compared with the old conventional cage laying systems. Pullets can be reared either in a cage system, or on a litter system. As EEB refer to pullets being reared in 'unenriched cage with high density', this is incorrect. Pullets in such systems are placed as day old chicks where they will be brooded on e.g. one tier to ensure they have food and water and appropriate heat. The cage floor will also be such that their feet are supported. As the pullets grow, they are divided into the different tiers of the cage unit so that at the time of transfer to a laying farm (at 16 weeks of age) they are utilising all the available space.

The representative of producer informed that Spain is working on different methods for stunning for rabbits, and the information was provided to EFSA.

The Commission clarified that it is aware that there are some technical issue with the settings, effectiveness and material used for stunning. The FVO has visited many member states that produce meat and made reports and controls on stocking density. They are also working on a procedure to ensure that stunning methods are effective. Reports are available on the Commission website.

The Chairman concluded by encouraging participants to send research projects carried out in different Member States to the Commission in order to ensure the evolution of the industry.

### **13. AOB**

The Chairman encouraged participants to suggest points for the next meeting or to send by email to the secretariat of the meeting at least 2 months before the following meeting. The next meeting is provisionally foreseen on 25th October in Brussels.

### **End of the meeting 17:30**

#### 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."