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MINUTES

Meeting of the CDG CAP

18 October 2021

Chair: Tasso Haniotis, DG AGRI Director C - Strategy, simplification and policy analysis

Delegations present: all organisations were present, except Beelife, CEMA, CEPM, Concord, Crop Life Europe, EMB, EPHA, EURAF, Greenpeace, SACAR and WWF.

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

The agenda was approved.

G. List of points discussed

1b) Adoption of New Rules of Procedures of the CDGs (Stock taking of Civil Dialogue Groups meeting held on 01/07/2021)

The Commission representative reminded that in June 2021, the Commission decided to extend the current CDGs organisation from 1 July 2021 to the end of 2022, by means of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1112 of 25 June 2021 amending Decision 2013/767/EU as regards the extension of the mandate of the member organisations of the civil dialogue groups dealing with matters covered by the common agricultural policy.

The necessity to renew the mandate for member organisations coincided with the final phase of the inter-institutional negotiations on the new Common Agricultural Policy. Therefore, a temporary prolongation of the members organisations mandate was necessary until the end of 2022 given that new CAP will be applicable only as from 2023. This comes from a logic that CDG organisation should match the CAP architecture.

In addition to a mere extension of the mandate, the Commission decided to take over the role of the chair of the CDGs meetings, reflecting practice in other policy areas. Certain arrangements with regard to the agenda and the minutes of the meetings would also be aligned with the practices followed in other expert groups, as explained in a dedicated CDGs stocktaking meeting on 1 July. As a consequence of these changes, new Rules of Procedures were necessary. A draft proposal was shared with members through Circa-BC. The new rules reflect changes stipulated in the Commission Decision on the extension of the mandate.

The members did not comments this proposal and the new rules of procedure were considered approved by the group.

COPA stated that it is important to have regular meetings of the CDG, more than two per year. Moreover, they stated that if working groups are established within the framework of this CDG, membership should be limited to the CDG members only. If needed, external members may participate with an observatory status.

2) Presentation of the CAP reform by Commissioner Wojciechowski

Commissioner Wojciechowski presented the political compromise reached by the Council and the European Parliament in June 2021 on the CAP reform post-2023. His intervention focused on the main novelties, opportunities and environmental ambition of the new CAP in line with the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity Strategies. He stressed the importance of the internal convergence and redistributive income support for small farmers, as well as the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) as key elements to support farms in the sustainability transition. He recalled the new social conditionality, opportunities on animal welfare through the eco-schemes, short food supply chains and the need for Member States to be ambitious and strategic in the preparation of the CAP national plans. On this last point, the Commissioner explained that Member States were invited to set national values as contribution to the achievement of relevant Green Deal targets in 2030. The CDG members were informed that the strategic plans will be thoroughly assessed by the Commission in a transparent way. Lastly, during his introductory intervention, the Commissioner recalled the importance of ensuring an open and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders in the preparatory activities at Member State level.

The Commissioner's intervention was followed by a round of questions and answers.

IFOAM: expressed concerns about the state of play of the CAP Strategic Plans and new delivery model.

EFFAT: thanked for the Commissioner's support for social conditionality and questioned whether any EU guidelines on this topic are going to be made available to assist Member States.

COPA: questioned the coherence between CAP obligations (e.g. permanent grassland) and farmers' ability to respond to market demand; questioned about possible delays in the submission of the strategic plans and internal Commission's approval.

ELO: CAP complexity might demotivate farmers. Decision makers have overloaded the CAP with high expectations. The CAP might not be able to deliver with possible long term consequences such as budget cuts and decreasing support for the policy and agriculture.

CELCAA: asked about the timeline of the delegated/implementing acts being prepared by the Commission.

COGECA: expressed concern about decreasing number of farmers, complex rules, increasing inputs prices and ability to produce food in some EU countries (e.g. Croatia).

EFNCP: important to remunerate farmers for public goods. Majority of measures proposed by some Member States (e.g. Germany) in eco-schemes are a simple shift from second to first pillar with higher payment.

EEB: CAP reform is not considered a good compromise; see poor strategic planning by Member States; interventions do not always meet prioritised needs; large delays, poor

transparency; questioning whether draft strategic plans will be made publically available. Transparency between the Commission and Member States to be guaranteed.

FEFAC: Why is the Commission ignoring impact studies on F2F targets?

CEJA: welcome ambition on organic but wondering how fast the CAP can deliver on the biodiversity and F2F objectives; questioned what the Commission and Member State can do to protect European farmers in case of negative consequences from F2F; recalled that time is needed to implement changes on the ground; lastly stressed that sustainability need to be addressed in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental).

ECVC: welcome the level of ambition set under the F2F and Biodiversity strategies; concern raised over the low level of ambition at MS level, CAP payments still based on the number of hectares, with voluntary approach on capping; questioned how to deal with trade-offs and low level of ambition, as well as CAP opportunities to address gender equality.

Commissioner reassured the CDG members about the importance of guaranteeing a transparent and inclusive approach during the preparation of the Strategic Plans at national level. The same transparency will be also guaranteed at Commission level during the assessment and approval of those plans. He stressed the need for Member States to be ambitious in the identification of the relevant needs and definition of the relevant interventions to meet the challenges faced by the European farmers, while delivering on the Green Deal objectives. Commissioner reassured that there is no flexibility on the deadline for the submission of the Strategic Plans, also in the interest of Member States and farmers. He explained that secondary legislation is currently being developed as set down in the basic legislation in order to ensure a smooth implementation of the new CAP. As regards the impact of the F2F targets, the Commissioner informed that a close monitoring will be ensured by the Commission during the implementation of the strategy. This will be done hand in hand with the assessment of the Strategic Plans and level of ambition set by Member States. On the different studies carried out to assess the potential impact of some relevant F2F and Biodiversity targets, Commissioner invited the CDG members to take a look at the factsheet [factsheet-farmtofork-comparison-table_en.pdf \(europa.eu\) that was recently made available by the Commission, providing further details on the elements taken into account by the respective studies, and their limitations.](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg-13-10-01-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000)

3) JRC Study on modelling environmental and climate ambition in the agricultural sector - *Exploring the potential effects of selected Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies targets in the framework of the 2030 Climate targets and the post 2020 Common Agricultural Policy*

DG JRC: explained that the study aimed at exploring the impact of some selected F2F and Biodiversity strategies targets in the framework of the 2030 Climate targets and the post 2020 CAP. They presented the objectives, scope and details of the assessment that have been published at the following link:

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC121368>

The chair recalled the long in-house experience on policy assessment, quality of studies, limitations and added values of current models; highlighted the importance of consumers behaviour analysis on F2F, and the definition of a list of common indicators to monitor achievements of a broad range tools at MS disposal, under different climatic conditions;

recalled the importance of a global approach to sustainability transition, while emphasising that action is urgently needed, irrespective of third countries' commitments. The chair also informed that targeted impact assessments will be done for individual F2F initiatives and recalled that close contacts with Member States are ongoing to ensure that SWOT and needs assessment are duly addressed by Member States and followed-up by ambitious Strategic Plans to accompanying farmers in the sustainability transition. Lastly, the chair recalled the overall support by Council and Parliament of the political orientation of the F2F and Biodiversity strategies.

IFOAM: recalled the importance of assessing the impact of aspirational targets, but let's avoid to get stuck looking for the perfect models; focus should be on measures to achieve those targets; questioning whether the Commission has the right models to assess the efforts of Member States to achieve Green Deal targets and how the Commission intends to assess the level of ambition.

COPA: called for a cumulative impact assessment of the F2F strategy; stated that F2F will lead to a reduction in production, with consequences on import and export; questioned how the study is linked to the 2050 Green Deal carbon neutrality.

ECVC: questioned the reasons for doing such a study with clear limitations; no link to small farmers; clear leakage effects on third countries.

COGECA: questioned about the follow-up given by DG AGRI

4) AOB

The chair invited the CDG members to participate at the upcoming event on land market organised by the Commission on 29 October 2021 (afternoon). Further details will be shared in due time.

H. Next meeting

The chair informed that the date of the next CDG meeting will be communicated as soon as possible. Members were invited to suggest points for the agenda to be discussed in the forthcoming meetings.

(e-signed)

Tassos HANIOTIS

List of participants– Minutes

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18 October 2021

MEMBER ORGANISATION	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Bee Life	--
Birdlife	2
CEETTAR	1
CEJA	2
CELCAA	4
CEMA	--
C.E.P.M	--
COGECA	6
CONCORD	--
COPA	6
ECPA	--
ECVC	2
EEB	2
EFA	1
EFFAT	3
EFNCP	1
ELO	3
EMB	--
EPHA	--
EURAF	--

EuroCommerce	1
Euromontana	2
FoodDrinkEurope	6
Greenpeace European Unit	--
IFOAM Organics Europe	3
PAN Europe	1
SACAR	--
SMEUnited	1
WWF	--