

EN(11)9694:2

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON THE ENVIRONMENT ON 15th November 2011

PRESENT: NORRING, STEFANI, DECKER, LANGAUER, POMMARET, ANTOLIN, VIEUSTEMPS, KULVIN, MONTAIGU, KICINSKI, GROOT, MITCHELL, DAVIES, BAJEN, ROTUNDO, SAGARNA, LOPEZ HERNANDEZ, FERNANDEZ AUGUSTIN, VALERO, PIETALA, EKSVARD, HEYMANS, ROSAS SANTOS, FEDI, MULVIHILL, PINGEN, ULRICH, MACIJAUSKAS, FARELL, RYAN.

SECRETARIAT: ANDÚGAR, MATTHEWS, RUNGE

POINTS 1 AND 3: The agenda EN(11)7872 (REV.2) and the minutes from the previous meeting EN(11)6081 (REV.1) were adopted.

2. Elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair EN(11)6769 (rev.1) Mr Luis Bulhao (CAP, PT) was elected as Chair. Mr Noerring (DAFC, DK) and Mr Decker (DBV, DE) were elected as Vice-chairs. Mr Bulhao chaired the meeting.

4. The legislative proposals for future CAP focusing on the environmental and climate change related provisions. Exchange of views. The Secretariat, Ms Matthews, presented the CAP 2014-2020 (EN(11)8781) followed by a second presentation on the Secretariat proposal for an alternative to greening POCC(11)8606 (rev.1).

→ Comments from member organizations, including on “green growth”, will feed into Copa-Cogeca’s more detailed reaction to the proposals being carried out in the upcoming months.

4.1 Debriefing on the Working Group meeting on Rural Development policy after 2013 on 11th November 2011 (EN(11)9676 (rev.1), DR(11)8676 (rev.1)). Copa-Cogeca’s representatives being members of the WP ENV who have participated in the meeting are: for the WG II on environmental measures Mr Ulrich (ZSCR, CZ) and Ms Piettola (MTK, FI); for the WG I on competitiveness Mr Bulhao (CAP, PT); for the WG III on rural areas Ms Dzelzkaleja (Farmer’s Parliament, LV).

5. Information on the Court of Auditors’ report on agri-environmental measures NON(11)7050 (rev.1). The Secretariat, briefly informed about the recent publication of the report.

6. Reply of the Commission on letter of the Advisory Group of Agriculture and Environment on CAP eligibility criteria (EN(11)8310 (rev.1), EN(11)8428 (rev.1)). Ms Pommaret (FNSEA, FR), Chair of the Advisory Group, reminded that the letter is the result of discussions held at the AG meeting in June 2011. It addresses eligibility criteria and definition of “permanent pasture”. The EC’s reply states that there will be more flexibility on eligibility in future.

7. Water – 2012 International Year of Water. The Secretariat presented an update on water related activities at the Commission level (EN(11)8744). In addition to it, the Secretariat presented a questionnaire on water and agriculture (EN(11)7890 (rev.1)) in view of preparation of the participation in the Green Week 2012 focused on water. Both items were followed by a discussion. Specific issues were raised: the water framework directive (WFD) leads to further restrictions for farmers; opposition to the inclusion of the WFD in the cross-

compliance; there is a problem of proportionality of penalties under cross-compliance (e.g. width of buffer strips); voluntary water protection is key, and participation of farmers in the decision making process is crucial; obligations under the nitrates directive remain a major challenge for farmers; importance of acknowledging the improvements achieved over the last years.

➔ **Member organizations will provide further responses to the questionnaire. The Secretariat will prepare a draft containing identified key messages on water in agriculture.**

The Secretariat informed about the Conference on water pricing in agriculture (14.09.2011, Poland).

➔ **On request of some member organizations the Secretariat will draft a letter on water services (based on arguments and information to be provided by the members).**

The Secretariat informed about the possible setting up of an European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on water efficiency. A stakeholder meeting organized by DG ENVI took place on 20.10.2011.

Finally, the Secretariat informed of a European Water Partnership (EWP) initiative on standards for sustainable Water Management and reminded the non involvement of Copa-Cogeca CC(08)8423 (rev.2).

8. EU Climate policy

8.1 Follow up of the UNFCCC negotiations related to agriculture in view of the Durban summit in December 2011. The Secretariat made a presentation EN(11)8821 (rev.2).

➔ **The WP asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft for a Declaration for Durban. It would be adopted by the 1st-2nd December 2011 Praesidia.**

8.2 EC proposal on LULUCF. The Secretariat reminded that the Copa-Cogeca had submitted a reaction to the public consultation in April 2011 EN(11)2067 (rev.5).

➔ **The Commission's Communication was due for June but finally it will be published after the Durban summit. The members will insist on the Copa-Cogeca's position at the AG meeting.**

8.3 Climate change adaptation (EN(11)411 (rev.2), EN(11)574 (rev.3): information by the Secretariat on the EC work; compilation of good practices; initiatives involving member organisations' participation.

➔ **The Secretariat informed that due to the lack of contributions, the preparation of a Copa-Cogeca brochure is not possible.**

8.4 DG AGRI study on GGELS (EN(11)1494 (rev.1): Mr Eksvärd (LRF, SE) presented their assessment, stating that the methodology and the models used by the JRC was not fully reliable (EN(11)8758 (rev.1)).

➔ **The WP discussed about the different national information provided by the study.**

9. Brief update by the Secretariat – questions, clarifications and steps forward (air, waste, soil, biodiversity). Due to time constraints, the Secretariat committed to prepare a power point presentation and send it to the members of the WP (EN(11)9687 (rev.1).

10. AOB.

➔ **The preparation of a Copa-Cogeca Declaration for Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference in June 2012 was requested by the members.**