

FL(11)9440:1

Brussels, 22nd November 2011

Original: French

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2011**

PRESENT: VAN ES, TONDINI, RONCOLINI, CALABRESE, CORBALAN, FAULI, ARNANDIS NUÑEZ, TRENZADO, GONGORA, BRAUNSTEIN, GREIMEL, FODOR, WUTZ, NÖTHEN, CORRALES, GARCÍA SIMÓN, LINDE, VLOUTIS, GAILITE, CIRONKIENE, POLDMA, KRZESNIAK, POFFERI, DE LEO, AZEVEDO, FERREIRA, DAWN, KLAASSEN, VAN DER MADEN, FARRELL, SABLOU, SCHERRER, DUPIN, CARDINAUD, MATOUSEK, CHALOUPKA, AERTS, APPELTANS, VANOIRBEEK, PETTITT

SECRETARIAT: DEJONCKHEERE, DI RUBBO, GOUVEIA

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was chaired by Mr Hans VAN ES and proceeded by adopting the agenda [FL(11)8195] and the minutes from the previous meeting [FL(11)6238].

Elections: Mr Hans Van ES (NCR) and Mr Sergio Tondini (CONF COOPERATIVE/FEDAGRI) were re-elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for a new two-year mandate (end 2013).

Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting:

Agreed to repeat request to add biopatents and new techniques to the agenda.

Agreed to adopt the Chair's strategic agenda with two additions: Fresh and processed fruit and vegetables and the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.

Items of information:

E. coli epidemic: The Commission would present a report on the use of exceptional measures by MS, by measure, by product, by PO and non-PO and would confirm the adoption of 14 promotion programmes. Regarding the 2012 budget, the Council rejected the EP's proposal of going back to the initial EC proposal and the special €250 million fund for fruit and vegetables. The Secretariat reminded delegates that a lobbying alert had been sent on 15/11/2011. If the special fund was approved by the institutions, the Secretariat would consult the Working Party by written procedure on proposals to be sent to DG AGRI suggesting how to use the additional funding in the 2012 budget.

Regulation (EC) 543/2011: CONF COOPERATIVE reiterated the problems with APO operational funds and eligibility of cooperatives' personnel costs. The industry's appeal regarding distortion of competition between private industries and on-farm-processing cooperatives could have an impact on the future of the support regime post 2013. DG AGRI would commission an external evaluation study in 2012.

School Fruit Scheme: The Commission would present the results of the scheme since 2008/2009. The proposal for the CAP post 2013 was more generous. The Court of Auditors report did not evaluate this scheme as it was too recent, but envisaged improving the School Milk Scheme and better integrating the two.

Quality package: An SCA meeting would be held on 21st November to establish the mandate for negotiations on marketing standards. 26 MS were against general marketing standards. The

Secretariat would send a letter to the agricultural attachés requesting that the mandate include the reinstatement of the 26 standards and the standards for tomato-based processed products.

EU-Morocco agreement: Plenary vote February 2012 and entry into force 01/05/2012

EU-US agreement on apples: There was no agreement on an export protocol.

Controls on Hazelnut imports: The Member State expert group would meet in January 2012. The issue of whether to maintain the control rate at 10% or reduce it from 10% to 5% was not yet resolved. Copa-Cogeca members were opposed to reduced control rates. A sound scientific basis was needed to resolve the issue.

Labelling: Regulation 1169/2011 would soon be published (JOL 304/2011). Article 26 established that the Commission would have to present a report by 13/12/2014 on country of origin and place of provenance labelling for products containing a single ingredient or for ingredients making up more than 50% of the final product. The Italian delegation would meet manufacturers in Rome on 22/11/2011. Following this meeting, they would put potential proposals to the Working Party.

Food chain: The Secretariat presented the B2B group activity report. The HLF meeting was scheduled for 28/11/2011.

Minor Uses : The Secretariat presented the results of the minor uses seminar on 7/11/2011. It appeared that DG SANCO was willing to seek funding (€7 million) from the 8th Framework Programme for RTD. No legislative proposals would accompany the report.

Patents on living matter: The Secretariat presented the minutes from the meeting with Michel Barnier's cabinet on 10/11/2011.

Items for discussion:

CAP post 2013

The Commission would present the EC proposals. Measures affecting fruit and vegetables could be found in several draft regulations, including:

- ✓ The Single CMO: School Fruit Scheme, consolidation of FVPOs, exceptional measures;
- ✓ Rural development: Risk management measures, crop insurance, mutual funds for crop disease, income stabilisation instruments, creation of producer groups;
- ✓ Direct payments: Possible recoupling for fruit and vegetables, national support for nuts, application of greening measures.

The Working Party was most concerned about:

- ✓ The inclusion of specific minimum recognition criteria for FVPOs;
- ✓ Crisis management through POs and other means;
- ✓ The implementation of 3 greening measures, which would be impossible to apply to the F&V sector.

It was concluded that the 2009 position should be updated.

Promotion

The Secretariat presented the state of play and the position paper. More flexibility was requested for the promotion of FVPO brands; this was included in Copa-Coga's position.
