

CF(12)4614:1

Brussels, 20th June 2012

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ON
22ND JUNE 2012**

Present: Alhoniemi, Batthyány-Schmidt, Bizzarri, Bodson, Bucco, Glatzl, Hartman, Hauka, Katri, Koning, Pesch, Roszczyk-Parzych, Streel, Verset

Secretariat: Federica Zolla

The agenda [[CF\(12\)3700](#)] was adopted with a change to the order of the items for discussion.

Ms Bogumiła Roszczyk-Parzych (National Council of Polish Agricultural Chambers) gave a presentation entitled "**Women in Polish Agriculture**" [[CF\(12\)4498 \(rev.1\)](#)]. Ms Roszczyk-Parzych emphasised how the economic situation in Poland and changes to society had influenced living and working conditions.

The accession of Poland to the European Union had prompted many changes to the development of rural areas. In Poland, a significant share of the population worked in agriculture, the majority being women. Women's aspirations had changed and they were becoming more active in view of improving their living and working conditions. The work carried out by women was the foundation of the agricultural family. Women were becoming increasingly skilled and assuming ever more responsibilities, becoming better trained and growing professionally. Ms Roszczyk-Parzych presented some data and statistics on the work carried out by women in the rural areas of Poland. The Chair and other members congratulated Ms Roszczyk-Parzych on the passion and understanding she had shown.

Mr Christophe Derrien, Copa-Cogeca Policy Advisor, then gave an **update on the "Product from my Farm"** Working Group. He presented document [[AQA\(12\)1684 \(rev.1\)](#)] and mentioned the latest developments following the conference on *Local sales and short supply chains* [[AQA\(12\)3111 \(rev.4\)](#)] which took place on 20th April 2012 in Brussels.

Members agreed that it was vital to recognise that women farmers were key protagonists in the operation of short supply chains.

Mr Christophe Derrien introduced the document: "*Latest discussions and upcoming developments on the issue of local sales and short supply chains*" [[CF\(12\)4513 \(rev.1\)](#)]. The Women's Committee were informed about how the discussions were proceeding at European level on the Quality Package and Copa-Cogeca's position on the Commission's move to encourage better integration of primary producers within the food chain.

The members present then discussed the possibility of introducing a European logo for direct sales (as indicated in the Commission's proposal). It was highlighted that direct sales was an activity which needed to be made use of at farm level, whilst taking into account the difficulties which exist in the different Member States.

The Austrian delegation informed members of an international seminar entitled "Women farmers, local products and short supply chains: practical experiences and strategic perspectives" taking place on 8th and 9th October 2012 in Eisenberg/Raab.

CAP legislative proposals. Ms Shelby Matthews presented the upcoming discussions on the CAP and in this context referred to work within the Agriculture Council, as well as the General Affairs and Budget Council where the budget for the future CAP would be discussed.

Ms Matthews then went through the key points of the position paper "The preliminary reaction of EU farmers and agri-cooperatives to the Commission's legislative proposals". Point 43 of the document [[PAC\(11\)7038 \(rev.9\)](#)], which specifically called for improved equality of opportunities for women had not been taken on-board by either the European Council or Parliament.

The proposal for creating a sub-programme for women within the Rural Development Programme prompted a degree of confusion.

Presentation by Mr Chris Botterman, Geopa-Copa President, concerning Belgian legislation on social security for women and their status as co-workers/assisting spouses [[CF\(12\)4499 \(rev.1\)](#)]. The President explained and updated members on the tax, legal and social regime applying to co-workers and assisting spouses.

Lunch

The meeting resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Michaela Glatzl (AU) presented the **resolution on training for women farmers and rural women** signed by the Austrian and German delegations, among others. [[CF\(11\)8150 \(rev.1\)](#)]. Members were in favour of the proposals put forward which could serve as a working basis. The Chair announced that the Women's Committee approved and adopted the resolution.

Ms Michaela Glatzl informed members of the position adopted by the Austrian women farmers on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Ms Federica Zolla informed members of the **FAO regional conference** she attended in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 16th to 20th April 2012. She explained the main issues at the heart of the discussions, including measures aimed at overcoming the gender divide in agriculture particularly in relation to access to land and other resources - an issue of particular interest to the Women's Committee.

The document *Global and strategic framework for food security and nutrition* drafted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) [[CF\(12\)4541 \(rev.1\)](#)] was briefly discussed.

The discussion then moved on briefly to the two documents which had been sent out beforehand by email:

- **Draft opinion from the European Economic and Social Committee** on "*The role of women as drivers of a development and innovation model in agriculture and rural areas*" [[CF\(12\)4543 \(rev.1\)](#)]. Ms Federica Zolla reported back on her speech at the EESC on 11th May 2012 regarding the draft opinion. Members were invited to email in any comments they might have on the document over the coming weeks.
- **Opinion of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men within the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020** [[CF\(12\)4544 \(rev.1\)](#)]: Ms Willemien Koning (Bureau member) presented the comments on the draft opinion.

Reference was made to the comment from Ms Teresa Lopez Lopez, a member of the Bureau who was unable to attend for health-related reasons, on the issue of granting a Working Group the mandate to organise a European campaign on fighting violence against women [[CF\(12\)4545 \(rev.1\)](#)]. Another specific request from Ms Teresa Lopez Lopez on gathering data from the members on certain issues was also mentioned. The request would be looked into and subsequently emailed to members by the Secretariat.

Finally, the discussions moved on to the involvement of women in the Copa-Cogeca congress from 1st to 3rd October 2012, as well **the workshop on "Women in Agriculture: how can**

women contribute to the food supply chain and employment in the rural areas of the EU?". The Chair invited members to submit their ideas and requests by email over the coming few days. The deadline for proposing discussion topics was set for Wednesday 20th June 2012.

There were various reactions by the members. It was decided that proposals should be sent in to the Secretariat over the coming days.

The possibility of holding a Women's Committee meeting in September shortly before the Congress in order to work out how best to organise the workshop was also discussed.

The Chair closed the meeting.