

Brussels, 19th July 2012

Original: French

Draft**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON 19TH JUNE 2012**

PRESENT: VAN ES, LOGGIE, SABLOU, DUPIN, CARDINAUD, FARRELL, MATOUSEK, CHALOUPKA, VANOIRBEEK, FERREIRA, AZEVEDO, VERSET, KICINSKI, AERTS, APPELTANS, GAILITE, CIRONKIENE, STRASTIN, VLOUTIS, ANFLO, FERNANDEZ, FOULI PERPINA, ARNANDIS NUNES, CORBALAN, TONDINI, DE LEO, RONCOLINI, LIPPERT, NOTHEN, STALLNECHT, BAZZANA, CALABRESE, FLAMINIA, FIGUEIREDO, BARBIER

SECRETARIAT: DEJONCKHEERE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was chaired by Mr Hans VAN ES and began with the adoption of the agenda [FL(12)3776] and the minutes from the previous meeting [FL(12)2559]. The Chairman welcomed Mr Luc Barbier, recently elected President of FNPFruits (France).

CAP

CAP post 2013: The Secretariat informed the Working Party about the main aspects of the Dantin report that concerned the fruit and vegetable sector (see FL(12)5061). CCAE asked the Secretariat to ensure that amendments were tabled to include rules of association and recognition criteria for FVPOs in the basic act. DBV pointed out that the Dantin report represented a step backwards in terms of market intervention.

Public consultation: DG AGRI had made the public consultation available on-line from 04/06/2012 until 09/09/2012. Copa-Cogeca's proposal would be based on existing position papers. DG AGRI would organise a public hearing with stakeholders on 27th June and 4th July (see the Chairman's speech FL(12)5020).

Implementing regulation concerning withdrawals and the entry price system: Copa-Cogeca had adopted a position on the implementation of withdrawals in its letter FL(12)4260. Withdrawal compensation did not take production costs into account. Tomato producers were treated differently according to the production season. A vote was planned for the meeting of the management committee on 11/07. DG AGRI could then propose that packaging no longer be eligible under the new operational programmes.

European and national controls: Legal uncertainties were discouraging producers from forming organisations. The increased risk of penalties was weakening the financial security of producer organisations, making it more difficult for them to access credit.

Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting

- a) Legislative proposals for the revised fruit and vegetable support scheme were expected in May 2013.
- b) Public consultation: DG AGRI had planned 3 working groups for the afternoon of 20/06/2012. Members of the Advisory Group would need to sign up for these on the sheet that would be passed round during the meeting. The conclusions from these working groups would be available in the minutes from the meeting of the Advisory Group (FL(12)5501).

- c) Copa-Cogeca supported the idea of measures to promote short supply chains through specific programmes in the second pillar. However, it was no longer in favour of introducing a new logo, "Product from my Farm", rather of a definition within food legislation (see position paper AQA(11)7259). DG AGRI's presentation was available (see FL(12)4634).
- d) DG Competition would present the report on the implementation of competition law in the agri-food sector (COM(2012)2838, FL(12)4743). The fruit and vegetable sector was covered on pages 107-110. The Working Party on the Food Chain would prepare a reaction. Any comments should be sent to the Copa-Cogeca Secretariat by the beginning of September.
- e) DG SANCO would present the state of play of its considerations, which were not yet representative of the EC's position (see FL(12)4740). The proposals would be presented as part of the overall plant health package. This was aiming for simplification and reduced costs.
- f) The EC had presented a communication on food wastage as part of its strategy for resource efficiency (see FL(12)4739). DG ENV wanted the industry to commit to waste reduction targets. Copa-Cogeca believed that wastage at the production stage was minimal – most wastage took place downstream from primary production (see general position DA(12)1920).
- g) Directive on late payments: The EC would launch an information campaign in the Member States (see FL(12)4147). The issue was payment delays, which could be up to 150 days for perishable products.
- h) Minor uses: The EC could propose €1 million for the fund.
- i) DG AGRI would present the state of play. A summary would be included in the minutes from the meeting of the Advisory Group (see FL(12)5501).

Patents

The EP had adopted a resolution on 2nd May regarding the patentability of essentially biological processes, but the EC did not have to take this into account.

An amendment which would establish the breeder's privilege was due to be tabled by the EP as part of discussions on the European patent.

Canned mandarins

A letter had been sent to DG Trade to support the action they were taking. Interested parties were required to declare their interest by 09/07/2012.

Any other business

Prognosfruit: see FL(12)3315

ICOP 2012: see FL(12)

The Working Party on Organic Farming was working on the harmonisation of organic production in glasshouses (see ABI(12)3589). The EC Expert Group was due to submit its report by 06/12/2012.
