

CER(12)6220:1

Brussels, 26th September 2012

Original: French

Minutes from the meeting of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein Crops on 28th June 2012

Present: VALENTINI, MAGARAGGIA, GERFRIED, FELCAREK, MATOUSEK, SOMVILLE, LAPINA, KARNER, FEDI, MAITINO, SCALACCI, DUMOULIN, MANNINEN, RUIPPO, FUGLSBJERG, GROOT, RYDBERG, WHYTE, BEDFORT, EDSJO, KAMPMANN, MULVIHILL, MEMMERT, STEPHANI, POFFERI, CORNELLA, MARTIN, LOPEZ, BASTO, KICINSKI, FERNANDEZ AGUSTIN, HUSKIC

Secretariat: Francesca Bignami, Arnaud Petit

Summary and conclusions

- 1- The Working Party, chaired by Mr Backhouse, adopted the agenda CER(12)4236.
- 2- No comments were made on the minutes from the meeting held on 28th March 2012 CER(12)4880, so they were adopted.

3- **Forecasts for the 2011-2012 marketing year**

A round table discussion confirmed that there had been a slight fall in cereals production (3% to 5%) owing to the fact that, although sowing had been reasonable, less productive varieties had been used and the crops were 2 to 3 weeks behind schedule. The UK and Irish delegations highlighted the risk posed by the development of mycotoxins. The Spanish and Czech delegations indicated that the forecasts for maize production were encouraging but actual results would depend on weather conditions.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, concluded the discussion by stating that weather events would disturb the market balance. He added that under the current circumstances, the planned crop diversification measure would penalise farmers and that the possibility of using farm-saved seed had limited the impact of frosts on European production.

4- **Market situation and prospects for 2012/2013**

The drought in the USA would change the market prospects and could mean that prices remained high until winter. Several delegations indicated that their analysis of the situation pointed towards rising production costs in the cereals sector.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, concluded the discussion by stressing that the positive market situation depended on weather conditions and that the Commission would have to be vigilant in case the market situation changed.

5- Continuation of the debate on the CAP post 2013

The Secretariat presented the state of play of discussions at the Council and the amendments proposed by the Secretariat which affected the cereals sector.

The Spanish delegation was in favour of public intervention for all cereals and the application of Article 38. The Irish delegation repeated its opposition to greening. Several delegations stressed that 7% EFA was too high. The Finnish delegation reminded delegates of the additional administrative costs this would entail.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, concluded the discussion by emphasising that the debate must continue within the member organisations and that they should continue their lobbying activities throughout the period during which amendments could be tabled at the European Parliament.

6- Follow-up to discussions regarding the approach to sustainability

The French delegation presented the initiatives launched in the sector. There was a combination of a sector-based approach and farm-level certification schemes. This dual approach had helped to improve practices internally and to reassure clients.

The UK delegation highlighted the risk of double controls as well as the risk that these measures could create a barrier to market access. The Swedish delegation pointed out that this request represented 20% to 30% of the market.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, concluded the discussion by proposing that each delegation reflect on the issue so that a more in-depth debate could be held at a later date in order to respond to the request from members of Coceral on this issue (private or public initiative).

7- Water: State of play from the Secretariat

The Secretariat informed delegates about the questionnaire sent to members regarding this issue and about the work of the task force on water. The Portuguese delegation highlighted the importance of the issue of irrigation in light of the current weather conditions.

8- Plant Protection Products: Neonicotinoids

The Secretariat informed members about a letter (CC(12)4378) which had been sent to Commissioner Dalli concerning this issue. The French delegation highlighted the impact on rapeseed production and informed members about the creation of a code of good practice to respond to criticism.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, proposed analysing the use of neonicotinoids in each country. The members approved of this initiative.

9- Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting

- The Secretariat presented the state of play regarding T2 and HT2 in the food and feed sector. Another letter would be sent to DG SANCO.
- The Danish Presidency had failed in its attempt to reach a compromise on national bans on GM crops and a briefing paper had been published on GM crops (www.greenbiotech.eu). Regarding the market authorisation process, trade was currently occupied with the procedure for MIR162.
- The Secretariat proposed requesting the creation of a regular contact group with DG AGRI concerning the development of AMIS (FAO).

10- **A.O.B.**

The Vice Chairman, Mr Schulman, informed members that a seminar on the fertiliser market was due to be held during 2012. It would focus on the development of the international market and the structure of fertiliser markets in Europe and would offer a platform for discussion between farmers and fertiliser producers on how best to anticipate market developments. The members approved of this initiative.

The Chairman, Mr Backhouse, informed members that the next meeting would take place on 27th September 2012.