

DR(12)8228:2- NM

Brussels, 26 July 2012

Original: English

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON 23 APRIL 2012

Present: BERTILSSON (Chairman), AALTONEN, ALARCÃO, BASTO,, BICKNELL, BULHÃO MARTINS, CARO CALVO, CORBALÁN, DZELZKALEJA, FANKHAUSER, FEDI, FERNÁNDEZ, FERNÁNDEZ AGUSTÍN, FISCHER, GROOT, GRUBER, GUNNING, HAUKA, JAUMOTTE, LEMAIRE, MASTROGIOVANNI, MATOUSEK, McCARTHY, MIRA, MORTENSEN, RYDBERG, SÖRMUS, THOMAS, ULRICH, VONDRÁKOVÁ

SECRETARIAT: MIKKOLA, RUNGE, MATTHEWS

SUMMARY AND conclusions:

The Working Party (WP) met under the chairmanship of Mr. Bertilsson and adopted the agenda [DR(12)2516:2] as well as the minutes of the previous meeting [DR(12)906:1].

Item 1: Preparation for the AG RD meeting on 24 April 2012

The WP approved the minutes of the previous meeting 15 December 2011.

Item 2: Exchange of views on the future RDP measures and coordination with other structural funds

Ms Matthews informed the members of the WP on the current discussions on the future of the CAP, timetable and Copa-Cogeca reaction to the European Commission's legal proposals on the future of the CAP post 2013. Ms Mikkola presented Copa-Cogeca proposals for amendments on the RDP legal proposal. The Chairman opened the floor for discussion. A debate took place and WP supported the proposal of the Secretariat for amendments. There was an agreement on extending support for producer group to 10yrs, maintain support to irrigation systems, agro-forestry systems to be extended for intensive agriculture, voucher systems for advisory services, maintain early retirement scheme, develop green growth measures and possibility of lump sum payments. However, the WP expressed concerns on financing, greening, limitation of investment support to SME's, LFA criteria, how to uptake of new innovations

→ Following the exchange of views members agreed to prepare an amendment list on RDP legal proposal. WP members were asked to send their proposals to the Secretariat.

Item 3: Working groups under the AG RD

Ms Mikkola informed the members of the work done in the WGs. Representatives [DR(12) 2906] of each of the WGs (Mr Bertilsson, Mr Caro and Mrs Dzelzkaleja) reported on the first meeting on 11 November 2011 and the work done since. The WP discussed the importance of active participation in these groups and raised their concern on the small amount of meetings per year as well as the lack of support from the Commission side to fully utilize the potential of these groups. The next meeting takes place 23 April 2012 afternoon.

Item 4: Exchange of views on the innovation in the farming sector

Ms Runge gave a presentation on the work done in the Copa-Cogeca WP on Research and Innovation and on the Copa-Cogeca position paper on the matter. She presented the Commission initiatives related to the dossier as well as interlinks with the RDP and Copa-Cogeca positions. WP members Mr Groot (LTO) and Mr Gruber (LKÖ) presented their organisation views on innovation at farm level. The Chairman opened the discussion. The WP raised their concern on the difficulty to understand interlinks between Horizon 2020 and EIP as well as Public Private Partnership initiatives. Further they were of concerned of patenting issues linked to innovation, how Horizon 2020 would work in practise and highlighted Copa-Cogeca should be included into the EIP activities of the Commission.

Item 5: Exchange of views on lobbying actions on LFA delimitation

Chairman opened the discussion on the new LFA delimitation criteria. FNSEA, NFU, DBV, Coldiretti and IFA presented their situation and proposal for a letter to be sent to the MEPs and the Commission services asking for WP support for the initiative that calls for greater clarity in providing maps, more flexibility for the criteria, use of index systems and possibility for cumulative use of criteria, lower threshold value (66 % to 50%), more flexibility for the 10% LFA areas as well as postponing LFA regime and excluding it from the CAP reform. The WP discussed the matter and supported the drafting of a letter to the EP members. However, there was no unanimous support for exclusion of the LFA regime from the CAP reform therefore it was agreed that this would not be included into the letter.

→ Following the exchange of views members agreed to prepare a letter to the EP to highlight the challenges of the new the LFA delimitation criteria.

Item 6: Information of the Secretariat activities

Ms Mikkola informed members of the activities in the Rural Coalition of Europe and presented the Rural Coalition's position paper on the future of the Rural Development Policy post 2013.

The Chairman informed the WP of the activities related to ENRD and the outcomes of the ENRD Focus Group on Environmental Services. Each of the individual experts representing Copa and Cogeca in the ENRD provided a brief update on the current work of the Coordination Committee and Leader Sub-Committee as well as the three thematic working groups.

Item 7: Any other business

No other points were raised.