

CER(12)9026:1

Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Original: French

**Minutes of the meeting of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein Crops on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Present:** THOMPSON, MAGARAGGIA, MARTIN, MATOUSEK, TODOROVA, PAUMIER, FERNANDEZ AGUSTIN, GALLARDO, ALBINO, BASTO, PIEDRA, DE MONTPELLIER, CARTRYSSE, STRINDBERG, LEIDWEIN, KORSHOLM, SEEDLER, ARENS, REWERTS, SCHULMAN, TUBERY, DUSSER, NARDONE, MARDÁ, OLAH, LÄÄNEMETS, LIPSKAS, MONTAIGU, KICINSKI, GRABINSKI, MLODECKI, POEYDOMENGE, EHLERS, KLOOS, ISAMBERT, CARTIER, CZERUUS.

**Secretariat:** Francesca BIGNAMI, Arnaud PETIT

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**Summary and conclusions**

- 1- The Working Party, chaired by Mr BACKHOUSE, adopted the agenda CER(12)6174.
- 2- No comments were made on the minutes from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 CER(12)6220, so they were adopted.
- 3- Election of the Copa-Cogeca candidate for the Chairmanship of the Advisory Group on Cereals, Oilseeds and Proteins

A secret ballot was organised. The scrutineers were Astrid REWERTS and Michal KICINSKI. Mr ISAMBERT was elected as the Copa-Cogeca representative to the Advisory Group on Cereals after the following result:

Mr ISAMBERT: 77 votes;

Mr GALLARDO: 52 votes;

And 3 blank ballot papers.

**4- Forecasts for the 2012-2013 marketing year**

The round table discussion confirmed that cereal production had fallen slightly (by 2%), but that the situation differed from country to country. There had been a late harvest in the northern European countries. The countries in southern Europe had been affected by droughts throughout the year and central Europe had endured a very arid summer.

The Chairman, Mr BACKHOUSE, concluded the round table discussion by highlighting the need for crops to adapt to climate change and to become drought and disease resistant. Additionally, the autumn weather conditions were already having an impact on potential production for the next marketing year by affecting the quality of crop-growing conditions (too wet in northern Europe and too dry in southern Europe.)

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

The drought in the USA and in Russia had altered market prospects and meant that prices would remain 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 round table discussion by underscoring the fact that a favourable market situation depended on weather conditions, but that a large number of farmers were unable to benefit because 50% of the harvest had already been traded by May. Additionally, it would be important to follow the development of mycotoxins closely.

**6- Market predictions for the meat sector (by Mr MERIAUX – UECEV)**

**Mr MERIAUX highlighted the difficulty the meat sector faced in passing on the increase in production costs and the strong competition between the different meat production sectors. Consumption of red meat was falling, as was porkmeat consumption, which has benefited poultrymeat consumption, which was on the rise.**

**The Copa-Cogeca Secretariat informed members of a draft action plan for the livestock sector which included increasing plant protein production in Europe, but also exploring the possibility of direct trading links between livestock producers and cereals producers.**

**7- Continuation of the debate on the CAP post 2013**

The Secretariat provided an update on discussions in the European Parliament and reminded those present of the main progress made concerning the reintroduction of optional public intervention for sorghum and durum wheat, the extension of Article 155 to cereals and export refunds.

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.

**8- Follow-up to discussions regarding the approach to sustainability**

The Chairman, Mr BACKHOUSE, reminded those present of what was at stake and suggested that the Working Party make a decision in order to anticipate debates with other operators in the chain and with the European Commission.

The German, British and Swedish delegations stressed the need to anticipate all future European legislation in this area. The Irish and Polish delegations expressed their concerns about over-legislating for farmers in this area.

The Chairman, Mr BACKHOUSE, concluded the discussion by proposing that a specific seminar be devoted to this topic. This would provide an opportunity to discuss best practices, schemes already implemented and the impact on trade on the internal market.

**9- Preparation for the AMIS meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> October in Rome)**

The Secretariat informed members of the composition of the delegation which would represent Copa-Cogeca at this meeting. Max SCHULMAN, the Vice-Chairman of the Working Party, would lead the group. Max Schulman presented the different points he would like to raise at the meeting. The French delegation emphasised the need to identify the share of by-products derived from biofuels which were intended for animal feed according to the AMIS report.

The members approved document CER(12)6630 including the remark made by the French delegation.

**10- Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting**

- The Secretariat provided an update on Diabrotica developments and proposed sending a letter to DG SANCO on lifting quarantine measures.
- The Secretariat informed members about the draft EFSA opinion on GMO hygiene safety.
- The Secretariat informed members about developments in bilateral negotiations with Canada, Japan, and the United States.

**11- A.O.B.**

- The Vice-Chairman, Mr SCHULMAN, informed members about his contribution to the seminar on promoting agricultural products which he had said should also include cereals.
- The Vice-Chairman, Mr SCHULMAN, informed members about a seminar devoted to the fertiliser market organised with Fertilizers Europe and Coceral. It was expected to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
- The Chairman, Mr BACKHOUSE, informed members that he would not stand for a second mandate and that the Secretariat would launch a call for candidates in November.

The Chairman, Mr BACKHOUSE, informed members that the next meeting would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012.