

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON PIGMEAT
ON 12TH APRIL 2012**

Present: Tavares, Algis, Martin, Veide, Karner, Manninen, Sisinni, Fischer, Kam, Higuera, Auffray, Royen, Houston, Schwarz, Sinoar, Granados Chapatte, Schlederer, Schütz, De Thore, Davies, Tailleur, Cullinan, Carla, Armengoc, Biasucci, Blicharski, Pollastri, Rantala, Rydberg, Fernandez Augustin, Stibal, Bernts Castells, Jernej, Corbalan, Enygard

1. and 2. The agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3.1/3.2 Italy: Over the last 6 months, the price of fuel had increased by 20%. Electricity and transport costs had also risen.

Lithuania and Estonia: As of 20th March, Russia had suspended imports of live pigs from the Baltic states. The situation was proving disastrous as prices had collapsed as a result of the export standstill. The Commission was called on to intervene.

France: Production costs and the difficulty in passing them on to industry and retail were identified as the major problem. Exports to third countries were good.

Slovenia: Imports were forecast to increase and internal prices to fall.

Belgium: Difficulties were being experienced in applying to banks for financing in order to adapt to welfare legislation.

Germany: Faced with the threat of a closed Russian market, an action plan coordinated with DG SANCO would be needed.

Poland: Although meat prices were high, they were still not enough to cover the cost of production.

Denmark: In 2012, prices were forecast to increase by 6.4%, and production costs to increase by even more. The Commission was invited to place restrictions on Russia in order to stem the spread of African swine fever.

3.3 The UK delegation presented the results of the BPEX study on possible scenarios following the entry into force of the pig welfare legislation – presentation available on Agri Info. During the discussion, experts highlighted the importance of European welfare requirements being respected by third countries exporting to the European Union. It was suggested that the Commission publish estimates on the economic and social impact of the new legislation on the pigmeat market.

3.5 Presentation available on Agri Info. The Secretariat informed the Working Party that EFSA had published a scientific opinion on pigmeat in December 2011. The Commission was considering relaxing inspections in line with risk and delegating clearly determined responsibilities to slaughterhouse personnel. This would help to save €293 million in costs associated with controls on carcasses.

3.6 The Secretariat presented an update on the origin labelling dossier, addressing in particular the questionnaire that was sent to the Working Party to help form guidelines to enable a common position to be struck internally. Given that the Council had reached an agreement on mandatory origin labelling (of origin or provenance) for pigmeat, the Commission now had two years to develop the implementing rules. The Working Party was completely divided on the issue.

3.7 The Secretariat presented Copa-Cogeca's reaction to the Commission proposals for the new CAP. Participants were informed that the Working Party on Cereals was attempting to estimate the impact of the "ecological focus area" measure. 3.7 million ha would be lost, which corresponds to a reduction of 20 million tonnes of cereal production. Estimating the impact of the crop rotation measure was more of a problem as there was no definition of what constituted a crop at that time.

3.8 The Secretariat updated the Working Party with the latest information on how the negotiations for a trade agreement with Canada, Mercosur and Ukraine were progressing.

4. The Commission had recently presented Member States with a new version of the proposal for reintroducing processed animal proteins, allowing them to be reused initially in the aquaculture sector. The vote on this would potentially take place at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) in May or June. The vote on the section applying to non-ruminants was set to take place early next year, once the validity of the screening tests by the reference laboratory had been confirmed.

5. AOB: The Secretariat presented the 5 options proposed by the Commission on the issue of cloning. On the basis of the responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat, a reaction addressing the issues of traceability and labelling would be drafted.

The German delegation asked for anti-microbial resistance to be discussed by the Working Party at its next meeting.