

AQA(13)207:1

Brussels, 04<sup>th</sup> February 2013

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE (AQA) IN AGRICULTURE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** DE CARNE, BENVENUTI, COPPOLA, TOZZI, MATOUSEK, NOTTEBEARE, BORBAS, GINEBRE, CLARKE, FLEMING, MARTIN, JOCHUM, WIERZBICKI, JOHANSSON, MATEOS, CORBALAN, ERAMO, NIENHOFF, GODINHO, MIRA, SCIBERRAS, MONTAIGU, POLLASTRI, BENVENUTI, KICINSKI, WELLS, STRAZDINA, PUKAITE-MALINAUSKIENE, STEPHANI.

**SECRETARIAT:** DERRIEN

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Olivier DE CARNE. The members of the Working Party adopted the agenda [AQA\(12\)6817 \(rev.1\)](#) as well as the minutes from the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 [AQA\(12\)7245 \(rev.2\)](#).

#### **1. Future of the CAP:**

**a. Information concerning recent discussions on the proposed regulation amending Regulation No 1234/2007 on marketing standards [NPN\(12\)6109 \(rev.1\)](#).**

The Secretariat explained that since the beginning of the summer this dossier had officially been integrated into the "legislative package" on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (as part of the proposed regulation on single CMO reform). Mr Michel Dantin, the rapporteur to the European Parliament on this draft text, had to a large extent integrated the amendments proposed by Ms GARCIA PEREZ into his last report, which was voted on by COMAGRI in July 2012 (when the draft regulation had initially been included in the "quality package") and which on the whole Copa-Cogeca had supported. Additionally, the text contained amendments which aimed to maintain specific marketing standards for the fruit and vegetable sector. Compromise amendments were believed to be in preparation. The final vote in the Parliament (COMAGRI) on the proposals from the CAP legislative package should take place on 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**b. Information on the final contribution of the Working Party on Quality Assurance in Agriculture entitled *The Common Agricultural Policy post 2013 – reaction to the Commission's legislative proposal concerning the EU's Agricultural Products Quality Policy.* » [AQA\(11\)9787 \(rev.5\)](#).**

The Secretariat explained that the individual components included in this document had to a large extent been used as the basis for proposed amendments to legislative proposals on the future of the CAP which had been submitted to the European Parliament by Copa-Cogeca in May 2012 (in particular proposed regulation on rural development support). The Chair explained

that this draft document would have to be finalised in the Working Party with a view to the POCC/CCC validating it during their next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**The participants supported the document in its current state but proposed placing greater emphasis on a certain number of items**, notably supporting the implementation of stock management tools for PDO and PGI products, as well as exploring the fact that the part of the "quality package" related to marketing norms had been shifted to the proposals on the future of the CAP.

c. Information on the amendments on questions related to Copa-Cogeca's reaction to future compromise amendments tabled by the European Parliament in response to CAP proposals DR(12)6535 (rev.1).

The Secretariat presented a draft reaction from the Working Party concerning draft compromise amendments on rural development legislative proposals see [AQA\(12\)7239 \(rev.1\)](#) and on the proposed text amending the "single CMO" (see [AQA\(12\)7235 \(rev.1\)](#)) on issues related to the quality of agricultural products. The proposals were mostly based on the proposed amendments submitted to the Parliament in May 2012 (see [AQA\(12\)7236 \(rev.1\)](#)).

**The participants supported the proposals set out in these different documents.** These documents would be used for lobbying purposes at the European Parliament in order to finalise the compromise amendments and the final vote scheduled for November (see below).

## 2. Legislative proposal concerning quality systems for agricultural products

- The Secretariat began by informing participants about the state of play concerning the draft regulation (see [AQA\(12\)6482 \(rev.1\)](#)). Following the trilogue agreement concluded on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the European Parliament had approved this compromise during a plenary session on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The text had to be officially approved by the Council before being adopted and published in the Office Journal at the end of the year or at the beginning of 2013.

- A discussion ensued on the opportunity for the Working Party to develop an informative brochure which would set out the principal reforms introduced by this proposed regulation. **Ultimately, the project was rejected.**

- The Secretariat informed participants about the draft response written by the Secretariat to answer the Commission's questionnaire (July 2012) concerning the practical issues involved in the use of the term "mountain product" [AQA\(12\)6457 \(rev.1\)](#). This document was based on the contributions submitted by members of the WP/AQA. **The members of the group approved the content of the document.**

## 3. Recent developments concerning short supply chains/local sales

- The Secretariat first presented the conclusions of the last Working Party meeting "Product from my farm" which had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 [AQA\(12\)6142 \(rev.1\)](#).

- There ensued a discussion on the strategy to be used for labelling local farming/direct sales. **The participants agreed that the Working Party needed to continue thinking about this issue within the party, in particular with a view to preparing for the Commission's report** on the subject (report which had been foreseen as part of the regulatory framework on quality systems which should be published one year after the new regulation came into force.)

## 4. Points of information:

- The Secretariat informed the participants of recent discussions at the European Parliament on the European Commission's promotion policy.

-The Secretariat finished by providing an update on the latest developments involved in the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 related to the issue of origin labelling.

The Chair thanked the members of the Working Party for their participation and closed the meeting.