

FL(12)9555:1

Brussels, 18th December 2012

Original: French

Draft

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2012**

PRESENT: VAN ES, SARRAUTÉ, CARDINAUD, GUILLARD, BARBIER, FARRELL, DUPIN, MATOUSEK, VANOIRBEEK, APPELTANS, VLOUTIS, MONTAIGU, BEKASIEWICZ, PRUSZKOWSKI, KRZESNIAK, LINDE, GOTTING, GAILITE, KICINSKI, MIRA, AZEVEDO, FERREIRA, GREIMEL, WUTZ, BRAUNSTEIN, CORBALAN, ARNANDIS, VATTAMANY, GONGORA BELMONTE, ARETA GARCIA, RONCOLINI, CALABRESE, TONDINI, QUADRO, BAZZANA, BURGHARD, NARRO, FAULI, HIDALGO, MUÑOZ

SECRETARIAT: DEJONCKHEERE, BENITES, GOUVEIA

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Working Party, chaired by Mr Hans VAN ES, adopted the agenda [FL(12)7324] and minutes from the previous meeting [FL(12)5651], with the addition of Mr BRAUNSTEIN's name to the list of those present.

CAP post 2013: The Secretariat updated members on the work being carried out within COM AGRI and the timetable. The Working Party had received a memorandum on amendments affecting the fruit and vegetables sector [FL(12)5061] as well as a note on amendments concerning POs [PAC(12)5205]. Copa-Cogeca had reiterated its requests to re-establish marketing standards and to maintain rules of association and recognition criteria specific to the fruit and vegetables sector [FL(12)2213:4], which could also be found in amendments 1670, 1671 and 1695. Considering the large amount of amendments tabled, MEPs were working on drafting compromise amendments. The vote in COM AGRI was scheduled for the end of January, however the timetable could change depending on the results of the November summit on financial perspectives.

Updating the position paper on support schemes for fruit and vegetables:

Document [FL(12)7742:1] was based on the 2007 position paper [Pr(07)92F1] on the EC proposal that laid the foundations of the current system. The Secretariat had taken any COM AGRI amendments thought to be compatible with Copa-Cogeca's positions, as well as proposals from member organisations. Document [FL(12)7742:1] would add to the 2009 position paper on POs [FL(09)7493], which was still valid despite ASAJA maintaining its reserve on the support scheme for POs. The Secretariat asked members to comment:

ASAJA: requested a debate to be held on how to strike a balance between producers and cooperatives and to develop a message on interbranch organisations. ASAJA requested support for groups of producers and not only POs.

NFU: The EC had overlooked the fact that the number of POs had fallen in the UK and elsewhere, because legal provisions were not working correctly. The NFU believed that these provisions focussed too much on marketing and not enough on the sector's ability to reply to consumer demand (product innovation, sharing infrastructure/logistics).

VBT: A clearer timetable was essential to ensure there would be sufficient time to prepare the next operational programmes. With a decision in 2013, it would not be possible to prepare a suitable programme for 2014.

CCAIE: The refusal to allow FVPOs to pass from the first to the second pillar should be made clearer in the document. It should be stressed that pillar 2 measures were not in force in all Member States due to insufficient national funding.

CONFCOOPERATIVE: Economic crisis management and serious crisis management should be separated. It was already mandatory for POs to incorporate environmental measures and this necessity should suffice for greening. It was necessary to request that 100% of the value of the processed product be eligible under the Value of Marketed Production (VMP).

FNSEA: We should not re-open the debate on the VMP for processed products, because chances were slim for tomato concentrate.

GEPC: Substrate for growing mushrooms, which was a mixture of straw, peat and horse manure, should be eligible under the single payment scheme. GEPC requested that all products under Annex 1 be eligible for the single payment scheme.

FELCOOP: Removing the environmental measure on packaging should be contested.

The Chairman concluded and invited members to send their comments to the Copa-Cogeca Secretariat within the next 2 weeks.

PO checks and inspections:

In its 2009 position, Copa-Cogeca stated that opportunistic practices must be avoided. The Council Regulation made it possible to outsource any PO activity. The Dantin report proposed extending this to cover all POs in all sectors.

Food chain – High Level Forum:

Stakeholders had to agree on the voluntary code and inform DG MARKT of their decision before 12th November. The Copa-Cogeca Praesidia had not approved the code as it was and requested improvements to be made to the sections on anonymity, penalties, critical mass and indicators. Commissioners' opinions were divided between a voluntary or regulatory approach. DG AGRI and DG MARKT would be in favour of a regulatory approach.

Food wastage:

This topic was being discussed by the DG SANCO Advisory Group on the Food Chain, by the task force set up by the Sustainable Production and Consumption Round Table and by the traders' forum. The process was heading towards drafting a code of good practices. However, problems arose with the definition and statistics. Primary production generated very little waste, indeed only because of public health reasons (for example BSE).

Bio-based economy:

Members were asked to refer to document BI(12)7746 and send their comments to Ms Mikkola, as well as informing the Secretariat of any examples, to possibly organise a Business Forum.

Preparation for the Advisory Group:

- Results of the public consultation: DG AGRI would provide more information during the Advisory Group: 140 responses had been received and the general consensus headed towards option 2.a.
- School Fruit Scheme: See presentation FL(12)8004. The EC report would be published at the end of 2012.
- Organic glasshouse production: DG AGRI had set up an independent expert group, which would pen a report on organic glasshouse production, potentially in view of amending regulation. The list of experts was available on their website: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy/expert-recommendations/expert-group_en. Article 4 of Commission Regulation 889/2008/EC banned hydroponic production. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:250:0001:0084:EN:PDF>. National legislation on which substrates were allowed for organic glasshouse production already existed.