

OV(13)352:1

**Draft MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY (WP)
ON EGGS AND POULTRY ON 10TH OCTOBER 2012**

BAGNARA, GAGLIARDI, BIASUCCI, POLLASTRI, HÖRMANN, CORRALES, FERNANDEZ, MONTAIGU, HERMET, SISINNI, MARTIN, MANNINEN, ZUBKÓW, ŁOŚ, RANTALA, ENDRODI, STEENBERA, MATOUSEK, BASTO, LIMA, WATSON, BUICK, LOGGIE, RIFFARD, MARINOV

Chair: BOURNS

Secretariat: BENITES, DERRIEN, PETIT, DI RUBBO, AZEVEDO.

1. and 2. The agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Introduction of the new secretary to the WP - Mr Daniel Azevedo.

3. Mr Bourns was unanimously designated candidate for the Chairman of the Advisory Group on Poultry and Eggs. Elections for the Chairmanship and vice-Chairmanship of the WP on Poultry and Eggs would take place in March 2013 during the next meeting. Should any member be interested in applying for the position(s), please contact the Secretariat (Daniel.azevedo@copa-cogeca.eu).

4. The Secretariat urged the appointed experts to attend the meetings of the forecast groups.

Market situation:

France: Poultry production was stable but the increase in the price of commodities was having an impact. Prices were stable at the moment and supply was sufficient to satisfy the market. Processors were having some problems paying for their product.

UK: The meat market in general was struggling to get some return from the market but the processors had to absorb some of the increases in feed price. The free range market had declined as major retailers stopped stocking their eggs.

Portugal: Poultry meat production was stable in the last months but a slight decrease (1% to 2%) was forecasted in 2012/2013 due to the general economic crisis. Prices were expected to increase slightly next year but the distribution sector was using poultry meat to do huge promotion campaigns and was demanding that producers bear the costs. Eggs: Portugal was notified by the Commission but at this moment the entire production was fully compliant with the Welfare Directive. Producers registered a 5% to 6% decrease in production and similar levels in the production capacity. Costs were increasing and consuming the margin of producers. When it comes to turkey meat the production was stable as the number of producers was also very limited.

Czech Republic: After a significant fall (2008-2009) poultry production had recovered. Eggs: there was a decrease in production and consumption of around 10% but the price had been stabilizing around 0.10 €/piece. The number of laying hens was expected to increase slowly.

Hungary: Very difficult situation in maize and it seemed to be just enough for domestic consumption in order to avoid extra costs due to importations.

Finland (FI): Crops - 10% of the harvest could not be harvested. This would put additional pressure on the current high price of feed. After the implementation of the Laying Hens Directive, 36% of all farms abandoned production and consequently there was a 40% decrease in the number of laying hens. Currently the number of laying hens was recovering and the consumption of eggs was increasing.

The Netherlands: Egg industry fully compliant with EU guidelines. The broiler market, the egg market and egg exports were stable. Similar problems when it comes to feed price.

Poland: The demand for poultry meat was facing an annual increase of 6% due to exports (representing 30% of production) that had increased 8% this year. Production costs were increasing and rendering production unprofitable. Egg production was decreasing as 10% of farmers had stopped egg production and some producers were opting for free-range eggs.

Denmark: Similar situation to UK.

Spain: Similar situation to the other European countries.

Estonia: The poultry market had increased 3% since 2010 and imports and exports had decreased from January to June. The main concern was the high price of feed. Eggs: (135 €/100 Kg) market was good for production and consumer demand outstripped production. Exports to LV had increased 60% and to FI 33%. Imports had increased 33% from LV and 31% from LT.

Italy: Similar situation to the other European countries regarding the cost of production. Slaughter increase 10 %. Problems in the organic and free range sectors: smaller farms were disappearing as the bigger farms were taking over.

Austria: Feed cost and cost of production: same situation as other European countries. Soya imports were still larger than the amounts produced in the country. Problem: GMO seed free was a standard practice required by national legislation and made the life of producers more difficult.

4.2. Mr Petit from the Secretariat presented the supply and demand for world cereals. Following the COPA-COGECA ad-hoc meeting on feed price of September 2012 the Secretariat prepared an action plan for the European Livestock sector.

Exchange of views on feed price: the French delegate stated that production costs were not the problem itself, but margins were the real concern. He also noted that third countries were posing unfair competition and that retailers were not willing to accept the price of EU producers. The Italian representative noted the importance of financial speculation, the importance of increasing insurance and called for action from the European Institutions in order to reduce the importance of speculative funds.

4.3 The Secretariat informed the WP of the last developments on GMOs. The authorization decision of the MIR 162 would be taken on 20th October by the Commission.

4.4 Mr Di Rubbo informed members of the most recent information on the implementation of Directive 1999/74/EC on the welfare of laying hens, on the Implementation of the Broiler Welfare Directive including monitoring welfare indicators and updated the WP on an EFSA Technical meeting on the use of animal-based measures to assess the welfare of animals.

4.5. The Secretariat informed the WP that EUWEP would give a presentation on the competitiveness of the EU egg industry in the Advisory Group.

4.6. The Secretariat informed members of the latest developments on the report on the revision of Directive 2010/75 on industrial emissions (the Commission still had to issue its final report to the Council and Parliament and may not necessarily come forward with a legislative proposal).

4.7. The Chair informed members that the uptake by farmers of this technology was currently being held up by the overlap between the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and Animal By-Products Regulations (EC 1069/2009). DG ENV and DG SANCO were working together to clarify this situation in order to implement rules in place as soon as possible.

4.8. The Secretariat debriefed the WP on the recent developments of the CAP post 2013 negotiations and the recent COPA-COGECA positions on both financing measures and greening ([PAC\(12\)4958 \(rev.4\)](#) and [PAC\(12\)4986 \(rev.3\)](#)).

4.9 The Italian representative stated that the EU currently had to import egg white rather than export it because the EU processors could not export the egg white as they had lost orders for the yolk. This representative pointed out that cutting the value of export refunds was a mistake and stable refunds were important. The Chair stated that maintaining this tool in European legislation, without necessarily activating it systematically, should be considered. Mr Bourns proposed preparing a contribution of the WP/Poultry and Eggs.

4.10 The Secretariat informed the WP of the initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

5. The Working Party unanimously approved the draft contribution paper (OV(12)6785) on future implementing measures for origin labelling prepared by the Secretariat.

6. Cynthia Benites provided the WP with a state of play on the promotion measures and the consequences on the poultry sector and on the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (COM(12)6848).

7. The presentation of this point was not possible. The members of COPA-COGECA were debriefed during the following meeting of the POCC/CCC.

8. The Netherlands representative informed members of problems faced by Dutch authorities concerning alternative methods for euthanasia of small and medium-sized animals above a weight of 5 kg enshrined in Regulation No 1099/2009.

9. AOB

a) Code of good practices for Rabbits The French delegate provided the working group with a state of play regarding this code and the future actions planned. The informal meeting of the Working Group on Rabbits would take place on 22nd October.

b) Code of good practices for Turkeys The Secretariat informed members of the turkey farm management guide prepared by a.v.e.c.. The Working Group decided to analyse this guide, propose comments/remarks and create a group of experts to negotiate a common, harmonized code across the EU.

c) Availability of coccidiotats for use in feed in the rabbit sector –Mr Derrien provided the WP with a state of play of the situation and a list of the actions taken by COPA-COGECA so far and possible actions to be taken in the future.