

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON CEREALS, OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN CROPS ON 14TH MARCH 2013

PRESENT: Watts, Gagen, Hambly, Gallardo, Fuentes, Paumier, Montaigu, Kicinski, Delany, Conway, Tuto, Leidwein, Strindberg, Ivarsson, Bowie, Seedler, Rewerts, Arens, Läänemets, Majauskas, Grabinski, Mlodecki, Olah, Marda, Matousek, Salvi, Dusser, Ferenczi, Albino.

SECRETARIAT: Bignami and Petit

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

- The Working Party, chaired by Mr SCHULMAN, adopted the agenda [CER\(13\)1370 \(rev.1\)](#).

Item 2: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th December 2012

- The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2012 [CER\(13\)2233 \(rev.1\)](#) would be sent to members to be approved by written procedure.

Item 3: Approval of the Working Party's working programme 2012-2014

- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, provided members with information on the final version. The Swedish delegation suggested that a reference be made to Horizon 2020, and the Danish delegation wanted to incorporate the questions of residues.
- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, proposed that the document be approved. The members approved version [CER\(12\)9664 \(rev.2\)](#).

Item 4: Estimates for the 2012-2013 marketing year

- The round table discussion confirmed that there would be a slight increase in cereal production in Europe, notably thanks to an increase in sowings. However, winter weather conditions could lead to a high percentage of resowings, but with less well-performing spring varieties. Forecasts for the areas of maize sown were still too uncertain and the lack of certified seeds was already being felt in the UK and in the Baltic states.
- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, concluded the round table discussion by highlighting that forecasts were difficult to predict because of weather conditions and the lack of certified seeds, which was linked to the refusal of seed companies to build up stocks.

Item 5: Market situation and forecasts for 2013/2014

- Globally, cereal sowing forecasts were on the rise, but the low stock levels and extreme weather events would determine the market situation after the harvest. Mike Hambly put forward an initiative that would make it easier to know how the domestic market for soft wheat was functioning, which would be based on figures and qualitative indicators. He

would present the general situation during the September meeting.

- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, concluded the round table discussion by reiterating that Europe must produce more cereal if it does not wish to be dependent on weather conditions.

Item 6: Exchange of view with Euromalt

- The representatives from Euromalt gave a presentation on the economic situation of the sector and future challenges. The French, Austrian and Italian delegations highlighted the fact that there was a need to improve the transparency of quality criteria for malting barley.
- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, concluded the debate by highlighting the real added value of this production, but also the costs of production in order to meet quality criteria. He invited Euromalt representatives to work together with the working party on this issue.

Item 7: Debate on CAP reform

- The Secretariat informed members about the vote in the European Parliament and areas where its positions might diverge from those of the Council of Agricultural Ministers. The English delegation wanted clarification on the notion of equivalence. The French delegation informed members about the additional payment for the first 50 ha.
- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, invited members to contact their ministers of agriculture on greening and internal convergence. He proposed that this last point should be dealt with in a presentation during the next meeting.

Item 8: Fertilisers

- The Chairman, Mr Schulman, informed members about the results of the seminar organised on 1st March devoted to the European fertiliser market. Copa-Cogeca and Fertilizers Europe agreed that they would work together in order to produce more data on forecasts for fertiliser production. Additionally, he had contributed to a seminar on recycling phosphorus (8th February 2013).
- The Secretariat informed members that a draft position on the revision of the fertilisers regulation would be circulated for written consultation.

Item 9: Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting

- The Secretariat informed members of developments in bilateral negotiations with the USA and proposed carrying out an impact assessment with the contribution of members.
- The Secretariat informed members of the activities of the Commission's expert group on financial markets.

Item 10: AOB

- The Chairman, Mr SCHULMAN, told members of the WP that the next meeting would take place on 20th June 2013.