

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON CEREALS, OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN CROPS ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

**PRESENT:** Watts, Gagen, Hambly, Ferenczi, Gallardo, Albino, Todorova, Senovilla, Paumier, Martin, Basto, Mira, Kicinski, Kaszuba, Majauskas, Sutka, Strindberg, Cartrysse, Leidwein, Seedler, Wutz, Arens, Schaeffer, Tubéry, Dusser, Salvi, Prieto, Matousek, Jirovec, Oláh, Marda, Conway, Delany, Mlodecki, Schulman

**SECRETARIAT:** Bignami and Petit

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

#### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

→ The Working Party, chaired by Mr Schulman, adopted the agenda [CER\(13\)4519 \(rev.1\)](#).

#### **Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**

→ The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 [CER\(13\)2930 \(rev.1\)](#) were adopted with no comments from the members.

#### **Item 3: Estimates for the 2012-2013 marketing year**

→ A round table discussion confirmed that in general, crop production in the EU Member States was behind schedule, with the exception of the Baltic area. The long winter period and relatively cold spring could affect the potential yield and leave crops exposed to the vagaries of the weather. The Italian delegation mentioned possible quality issues. The UK delegation reiterated that there was a problem with the availability of certified seed for resowings. They requested that the ban on farm-saved seed being exchanged between farmers during times of market shortages be discussed with the ESA.

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, concluded the discussion by once again stressing that harvest forecasts depended on weather conditions and on the logistical resources available to process different cereal and oilseed crops over a short period of time. He suggested setting up an ad hoc group on the question of farm-saved seed.

#### **Item 4: Market situation and prospects for 2012/2013**

→ The French delegation highlighted that limited logistical capacities could delay when the harvest would be available on the market by one to two-months. Considering the level of production registered for barley, the Swedish delegation expressed its concerns on prices.

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, concluded the debate and underpinned that the global market was still very unstable. Despite good global harvest forecasts, European farmers should consider the falling level of end-of-year stocks in Europe and the delay in accessing the global market as a warning sign that cereal prices could sharply fall.

### **Item 5: CAP reform**

→ The Secretariat presented the state of play of negotiations on the CAP reform. The next agricultural council meeting would be decisive and a triologue discussion with MEPs was scheduled for the end of the Council meeting. As for the financial perspectives, the European Parliament was striving to reach a joint position that would use budgetary resources as best as possible. The Secretariat informed members about activities that had been organised around the Council of Agriculture Ministers and the Copa and Cogeca Praesidia meetings on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June.

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, encouraged members to lobby their agricultural ministers to achieve a good, reasonable and well-balanced CAP reform.

### **Item 6: GMO dossier**

→ Pedro Gallardo, ASAJA, gave an update on his activities related to GMOs. The Chair, Mr Schulman, also mentioned the volition of the UK authorities to permit the use of GM crops on their territory during his visit to the 'cereals event'. The UK, French and Portuguese delegations expressed their interest in receiving an update on this topic during the next meeting.

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, requested that the Secretariat prepare a specific meeting on GM wheat, so as to enlighten members.

### **Item 7: Fertiliser dossier**

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, informed members that DG Enterprise had fallen behind schedule with its draft regulation on the placing on the market of fertilisers. The draft text should be subject to inter-service consultation after the summer break. It seemed that the draft was less restrictive concerning livestock manure.

→ DG Trade was to publish its opinion by mid July on whether or not to continue levying anti-dumping duties on nitrogen fertiliser imports originating in Russia.

### **Item 8: Exchange of views on planned negotiations for an EU-US bilateral agreement**

→ The Secretariat presented a market analysis, which identified the strong and weak points of European cereal production and discussed the initiative to study non-tariff measures with FoodDrinkEurope. The UK delegation stressed that American producers had access to biotechnologies and that their regulation was less stringent. The French delegation brought up indirect competition with the possible TRQs for meat, non-tariff aspects such as the possibility to mix at the silo and the question of the competitiveness of the ethanol sector.

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, encouraged members to send their comments to the Secretariat.

### **Item 9: Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting**

→ The Secretariat informed members of the activities of the expert group on financial markets.

### **Item 10: A.O.B.**

→ The Chair, Mr Schulman, informed members that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, and would be followed by a specific meeting on GMOs.