

LC(12)8795:1

Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Original: French

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON FLAX  
AND HEMP ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Steger, Matousek, Vlaemynck, Laizans, Bertucelli, De Murat, Mallet, Kasse, Van De Bilt, Talpe, Patenôtre

**SECRETARIAT:** Dominique Dejonckheere

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**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Working Party, chaired by Mr Xavier Talpe, adopted the agenda [LC(12)6330:1]. The election procedure was added and took place alongside the Working Party's agenda. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17/10/2011, were also adopted [LC(11)8187:1].

**Elections:**

In response to the call for candidates [LC(12)7020:1], the Copa-Cogeca Secretariat received the candidacies of Talis Laizans (LOSP) [LC(12)712:1], Xavier Talpe (FNSEA) [LC(12)7347:1], Hubert Brisset (Coop de France) [LC(12)7206:1] and Stéphane Borderieux, whose candidacy had to be approved by the FNSEA.

The Working Party re-elected Mr Talpe as Chair. Mr Laizans would hold the Vice-Chair position. Mr Borderieux would hold a Vice-Chair position once his candidacy would have been approved by the member organisation of Copa or Cogeca.

The Party proposed the candidacy of Mr Hubert Brisset for the position of Chair of the Advisory Group. This candidacy would have to be approved by the Copa-Cogeca Praesidia before official submission to DG AGRI. Since the deadline for candidacies for Chair was not adhered to, the election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Group would be postponed until the next meeting.

The current Chair of the Advisory Group, Mr Bertrand Patenôtre, stated he would not renew his mandate. The candidates for the positions of Vice-Chair would have to submit their candidacies through CELCAA and FoodDrinkEurope.

**Preparation for the Advisory Group meeting**

**Report on the 2011-2012 marketing year**

Flax: The consolidated financial statements of the 3 major producing countries, Belgium, France and the Netherlands, can be found in document [LC(12)7345:1]. There were no carry-over stocks of straw.

Hemp: EU hemp surface area amounted to 15,000 hectares. The increase in surface area in France between 2011 and 2012 could be explained by the need to replenish stocks for mature industries and the establishment of new factories with a capacity of 6,000 ha. There were no stocks of hemp.

**2012-2013 marketing year:**

Flax: The surface area in the 3 producing countries amounted to 80,000 ha, an 8% increase. However, because of weather conditions, 10% remained outside of France. As a result around 74,000 ha would be used for scutching in the 3 main producing countries. These levels remained unchanged from 2011. Increased yield per hectare of tow was expected in 2011. Prices were on

the rise. Tow yields were expected to be lower in 2012, but flax which was too short would also be used as tow, so tow supply would be met. The price of tow was high and the paper manufacturing industry may refrain from purchasing.

Hemp: The harvest had not yet been completed. Surface area was expected to remain unchanged in 2013.

It had become more difficult to produce flax and hemp because farmers no longer received coupled aid; the price of cereals and oilseeds was steady. Flax production was very unpredictable because of weather conditions and was more affected by the climate than grains, for example.

### **CAP post 2013**

Several sectorial organisations from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic had drafted a document containing their joint position and a list indicating how they would vote on EP amendments. This would be given to MEPs and to the EC.

However, this sectorial position did not conform with Copa-Cogeca's general position on greening of the CAP because Copa-Cogeca has requested that ecological focus areas be reduced to 3% and that that a European list of 6 measures be drawn up, of which the farmer chooses 2 (c.f. [PAC(12)4986:4]).

CELC highlighted the fact that the EU's linear set of problems is the same as those faced by the cotton industry in the USA. After having sought to expand into new outlets, geographical expansion was now required.

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