

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA  
WORKING PARTY ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
ON 22 APRIL 2013**

**PRESENT:** Bertilsson, Pascher, Wutz, Vitzthum, Mc Carthy, Scalacci, Mastrogiovanni, Di Stefano, Leporati, Corbalan, Miguel De Diego, Fuentes, Caro Calvo, Bulhão Martins, Fernandes, Basto, Quadro, Grasso, Gruber, Fankhauser, Bjornsson, Leifland, Aaltonen, Groot, Davies, Bicknell, Kicinski, Drygas, Laczkó, Dzelzkaleja, Kärner, Sörmus, Hauka, Jaumotte, Decramer, Matousek, Vondrakova, Ulrich, Cazaubon, Lhermitte, Thomas, Gunning, Mulvihill

**SECRETARIAT:** Gouveia, Matthews, Neagu, Runge

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

**Item 1 and 2 : Adoption of the Agenda and of the draft minutes of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Rural Development on 22 November 2012.**

→The Working Party (WP) met under the chairmanship of Mr. Bertilsson and adopted the agenda [DR\(13\)2412 \(rev.2\)](#) as well as the minutes of the previous meeting [DR\(12\)8784 \(rev.1\)](#)

The Chairman introduced Mrs. Oana Neagu and welcomed her. Mrs. Neagu introduced herself and thanked the WP. The Chairman reminded that elections in the Advisory Group would take place the following day, and that the candidate for Chairmen is Mr Peter Pascher (DBV) and for Vice-Chairman from EEB and UECEB.

The agenda [DR\(13\)2412 \(rev.2\)](#) as well as the minutes of the previous meeting [DR\(12\)8784 \(rev.1\)](#) and adopted.

**Item 3: Election of Chairmanship of the Working party (2013 – 2015)**

→The Chairman gave the word to Mr. Gouveia who explained the rules of procedures for the elections, reminded the name of the three candidates running for the Chairmanship and invited them to present themselves: Mr. Cazaubon, Mrs. Dzelzkaleja, and Mr. Mastrogiovanni. After the second round Mrs Maira Dzelzkaleja was elected as Chairwoman. The candidates running for vice-chairmanship presented themselves Mr. Cazaubon, Mr. Bertilsson, and Mr. Caro. Mr. Cazaubon and Mr. Bertilsson were elected as new Vice-Chairmen.

**Item 4: Innovation in the farming sector: Farmers and agri-cooperatives involvement in the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability by Ms Tania Runge**

→Mrs. Runge gave a presentation regarding the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability. She informed that a document has been prepared to explain how the EIP could be used by the farming sector ([RES\(13\)798 \(rev.1\)](#)) and that the network facility has been appointed. Regarding the Sherpa meeting that took place the week before, Mrs. Runge explained that work is ongoing on the strategic implementation plan (SIP). The Commission stated that they were happy with the first draft prepared by Sherpa group members as a starting point. During the Sherpa meeting it was agreed that aspects on productivity will be included and more emphasis will be put on animal production; forestry and horticulture will be also addressed. It was agreed that the drafting groups will revise the document and a final round of written comments will be conducted among the Sherpa group. The SIP is foreseen to be ready for adoption at the next High Level Steering Group meeting on 11 July.

**Item 5: State of play of the negotiation process for the CAP after 2013 by Ms Shelby Matthews**

→Mrs. Matthews updated the members on the State of play of the CAP negotiation: the trilogue is going on and the hope is to end in June. Internal convergence and greening are the more difficult points. MFF to be agreed probably in October-November; the final agreement should come not before November under the Lithuanian Presidency. Copa-Cogeca is pushing to reach an agreement in June to avoid further delays due to 2014 EU Parliament elections. During Copa-Cogeca Præsidia a list of lobbying priorities have been prepared. The Commissioner position unknown but if the greening is too flexible, it threads to react with legislation. The Chairman asked what kind of legislation can be proposed by the Commission at EU level. Mrs. Matthews answered that this is a tactical position of the Commission but that it would have been good to ask this question during the Advisory Group the following day. Mrs. Matthews replied to the questions of the members regarding adaptation to standards and internal convergence. The answer was that the Council and the Parliament asked for more flexibility but the Commission's reactions are unknown. Since different countries have different solutions; Copa- Cogeca asks for more flexibility but this is one of the most difficult points. It was stressed also by the members of the WP that October/November is very late for an agreement and that it would be problematic for national authorities to prepare their programmers.

#### **Item 6: Progress on the negotiations on the CAP reform (RDP) and transitional arrangements for RDP (2014) by Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann**

→Mrs. Loriz-Hoffmann gave her speech on the progress on the CAP reform and transitional arrangements. The trilogue meetings started at the end of March and the will continue until the end of June (8 meetings are planned). Among the main points of the discussion are: investment measure, support for irrigation, LFA (Council agrees with certain changes), risk management measures. On transitional rules it has been said that payments can be done until 2015 (n+2 rule) out of the old budget. The legal service increased the flexibility: if a Member State has still money, it can still authorize projects and pay until 2015.

The R 335/2013, amending the current rules was already been published. No new commitments for early retirement and meeting standards. Contracts for agri-environment, animal welfare and forestry can be prolonged. It is not sure when the entire new legislation would be ready and entry into force, hopefully, if a political compromise is found, by the end of June. As far as the budget is concerned the Parliament will not decide before September/October 2013. Regarding the new money, the second step is a new legal proposal that deals with the transitional period that has been already tabled by the Commission. In 2014 new contracts with old rules can be uptake by Member States (e.g. LFA, Natura 2000) but in 2015 these contracts have to comply with the new rules. The 3<sup>rd</sup> package of transitional rules for RD establishes that everything agreed during the old period automatically will be paid from the new budget. Since co-decision is different from what has been done before, it takes a bit more time.

**Irrigation:** the initial proposal had a simplistic view; the Commission wants investments because in most Member States irrigation systems are not working or too old. Increasing efficiency will result in economic advantages and it would be possible to give back the water that is not used to nature. Member States in a region with no water problem have to give 5-15% of their water saving back to nature. The Commission wants farmers to invest in irrigation and infrastructures but under specific environmental conditions. The Commission is in favour of water stocks but it has to be done accordingly to the directives. For small projects no complete evaluation are available but other measures for water control would be outlined.

**RD Programs in the MS:** After summer MS will have a complete picture of what is in the legislation. When the legislation will come out, we can try to approve programs in the first part of next year.

**Investment measures:** Normally you cannot do a call for tenders if you do not know the selection criteria. MS can start paying from 1 January 2014; the Commission will pay when the programmed is approved. We will have MS that are risk takers and MS risk avoiders. Advise: MS have to wait maybe.

**LFA** - the Parliament asked to postpone a decision on the LFA (due to elections in DE). The EP asked the Commission to introduce an interim system for the 2014 and then a new proposal at the end of next year. For Mrs. Hoffmann consider this not a good idea.

**What happen if the budget is rejected?** - Negotiations between EP and the Council. The Commission is the facilitator. EP should react responsible. It seems very important that we advance on this matter.

**Meeting standards:** the Commission is positive thanks to examples of investments that helped farmers to meet standards, as for the cages for poultry. The Commission says no to the idea that farmers can adjust their situation after the entrance into force of the regulation, because this approach would penalize the ones who struggled to meet the standards on time.

Mrs Loriz-Hoffmann mentioned also that the MS got the figures on the budget.

**Item 7: Presentation of the current and future activities of the ENRD by Mr Fabio Cossu and Mr Donald Aquilina (ENRD)**

→Mr. Fabio Cossu and from the ENRD Contact Point gave a presentation of the network, outlining its mission, objectives, and activities. Mr. Aquilina from ENRD illustrated the networking and communication activities of the contact point.

**Item 8: LAGs and their future role in the programming period 2013-2020 (letter CZ) by Ms Renata Vondráková**

→Mrs. Vondráková addressed the issue of LAGs in the CZ that started in CZ to promote also entrepreneurial activities in competition with other activities in rural areas. Mrs. Vondráková underlined that this is a crucial question for the next programming period and asked how to solve the situation. Mrs. Vondráková like to know what is the experience with the LEADER in other countries and plans with their role in the next period as in CZ this approach does not proved to be the best one.