

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON CEREALS, OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN CROPS ON 2ND OCTOBER 2013

Present: Backhouse, Watts, Gagen, Loggie, Ferenczi, Gallardo, Todorova, Senovilla, Martin, Paumier, Cioroianu, Arion, Conway, Sutka, Strindberg, Leidwein, Montpellier, Cartrysse, Dorff Christiansen, Schaeffer, Dusser, Nardone, Jirovec, Matousek, Verset, Kicinski, Mlodecki, Majauskas, Stephani, Basto, Marda, Oláh, Schulman, Albino, Mira

Secretariat: Arnaud Petit

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

→The Working Party, chaired by Mr Max Schulman, adopted the agenda CER(13)6544.

Item 2: Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

→The minutes from the meeting held on 20th June 2013 CER(13)6862 were adopted with no comments from the members.

Item 3: Estimates for the 2013-2014 marketing year

→The quantity of European cereals production varied considerably, yet quality remained a constant. The UK, Polish and Portuguese delegations mentioned that production had been lower than forecast. The Spanish and German delegations reported that quality was average. The Romanian delegation highlighted the future impact of the neonicotinoid ban on maize production. The French delegation stated that their maize harvest forecasts depended on harvest conditions over the coming weeks.

→The Chairman concluded the discussion by explaining that there had been a relatively short delay in the harvest and that quality had been good. Cereal production could still be affected by the harvest conditions. Conditions had been good for wheat sowings.

Item 4: Market situation and forecasts for 2013/2014

→The good production forecasts in Ukraine and Russia were marred by quality issues, due to the abundant rainfall that had fallen over the past few weeks. The mycotoxin situation would have to be monitored. Furthermore, China had once again become active on the wheat market. Time would tell if this trend would last. In these conditions, it would be unlikely for the level of end-of-year stocks for wheat to significantly rise. On the contrary, returning to a normal ratio of usage to stocks for maize should positively impact on prices.

→The Chairman drew the discussion to a close and stressed the need to better understand changes in production and placing produce on the market in Russia and Ukraine.

Item 5: Continuation of the debate on the CAP post 2013

→The Secretariat briefly detailed the agreement that had been reached during the Agriculture Council meeting in June. A round table debate ensued on the main national approaches concerning decoupling rates, greening and the aid convergence system. The UK and Swedish delegations mentioned their governments' desire to transfer funds to the 2nd pillar. The Bulgarian and French delegations requested maximum recoupling. Other delegations stated that they were not yet aware of their governments' choices.

→The Chairman encouraged members to respond to the Secretariat's questionnaire as and when national decisions were announced.

Item 6: Fertilisers

→The Chairman informed members that the presentation of a legislative initiative concerning the placing on the market of fertilisers had been postponed. This should now happen in 2015 at the earliest and would come into force in 2017-2018. On the other hand, DG Enterprise should carry out several initiatives on the circular economy (recycling livestock manure).

Item 7: Follow-up on MiFID

→Ian Backhouse and Anne-Laure Paumier presented the state of play of work within the DG Agri Expert Group. Several delegations requested more information on the topic of training farmers and the notion of benchmarks for futures contracts.

→The Chairman concluded with the necessity to call upon the ad hoc group on MiFID to discuss these topics.

Item 8: Promoting agricultural products

→The Secretariat presented the Commission's general direction and explained the possibility to establish strategies per sector. Several delegations brought up the advantages of promoting sweetcorn and rapeseed oil. The Polish and Romanian delegations supported the initiative to develop a strategy for the cereals sector.

→The Chairman, Mr Schulman, invited members to send their proposals to the Secretariat.

Item 9: AOB

→The Chairman informed members that an ad hoc meeting on biotechnologies in the cereals sector would be organised on 3rd October. The next meeting would be held on 17th December 2013.
