

MINUTES OF THE COPA-COGECA ON PIGMEAT WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 06.05.2014

PRESENT: Tavares (Chair), Higuera (Vice-Chair), Aberg (Vice-Chair), Schlederer, Tijssen, Kam, Matousek, Matsdotter, Neumann, Schütz, Börger, Biasucci, Narro, Corbolan, Armengoc, Blicharski, Laxaback, Rantala, Frendo, Jakobi, Baravykas, Lejniece, Stibal, Royen, Yiapanis, Granados, Gilbert, Ferguson, O’Flaherty, Houston, Kicinski, Sinjar, Verset, Pecastaing, Tailleur, Serres, Huet, Basto, Flamini, Quadro, Lagoa, Badila, Jurconi.

SECRETARIAT: Di Rubbo, Benites, Azevedo.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Item 1: Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting

→ The two documents were approved, upon the inclusion of 2 points in the agenda: information on Ukraine and information on the outbreak of PEDv. The Chairman presented the list of Activities of the Chairmanship.

Item 2: Election of the Copa-Cogeca’s candidate - Vice-Chair of the Advisory Group

→ Mr. Schlederer was appointed as candidate by acclamation.

Item 3: Exchange of views on the recent outbreak of African Swine Fever in Poland and Lithuania and Trade restrictions imposed by third countries

→ The Polish and Lithuanian delegation informed on the measures taken to control the disease and the impact of trade restrictions in their internal market. The two delegations welcome the financial aid provided by the Commission but underlined the delay on reaching producers. The Secretariat debriefed on the outcome of the meetings with Head of Cabinet Ciolo and Commissioner Borg and informed that the Commission has decided to take legal action in WTO. The WP believes that the dialogue with our trade partners should be maintained in spite of the WTO case, as the priority is to re-open Russian market. The WP urged the Commission to put additional pressure on neighboring countries in order to better control the disease. It’s of utmost importance to prevent new cases especially in domestic pigs.

→ Mr Houston has provided a presentation on the recent outbreak of the new strain of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea in the US and Canada. The WP is very alarmed by the potential risk of it spreading to the EU pig population and the devastating consequences this virus could have on EU pig production. Furthermore, the WP would propose that a joint industry/Commission expert group be set up to share knowledge and provide inputs on relevant measures, as well in view of prepare a contingency plan, aiming to prevent, control and in the worst case eradicate this disease. We believe that open and on-going dialogue is essential at this stage. The expert group should identify any diagnostic tools available on the market and on-farm tests for the presence of PEDv antibodies, including education and awareness of operators and veterinarians on how to reduce the risk of infection. The group could also promote updated biosecurity measures, examine and assess any risk associated with feed, identify knowledge gaps and any research activities. The Secretariat will prepare a letter to be sent to DG SANCO.

Item 4: Internal Market - Latest information on the market situation for pigmeat and feed market update

→ The Secretariat presented the summary of the market situation at EU level and per Member State provided by the forecast working meeting – [VP\(14\)3451 \(rev.1\)](#).

Item 5: Development and Trade

- The Secretariat provided a state of play of the negotiations concerning the TTIP (USA), Canada (CETA), Mercosur, Ukraine and Japan. Concerning TTIP, the Secretariat presented a proposal for communication based on the technical report [BILAT\(14\)1867 \(rev.1\)](#). The WP will analyze the document and provide the Secretariat with comments by the end of May.
- Regarding the CETA agreement, and following an intensive lobbying from Copa-Cogeca, the Chair informed that Commissioner De Gucht has confirmed to MEPs that 1st arrived – 1st served for TRQ management is not the option selected by the EU.
- On Japan, WP was asked to comment and updated the document [BILAT\(13\)4124 \(rev.1\)](#).
- The Mercosur should officially establish a joint offer in July, which could reach 87% of tariff line liberalized. Copa-Cogeca has sent a letter to Ciolo opposing reopening negotiations with Mercosur [CC\(14\)3359 \(rev.1\)](#).
- Ukraine: Following the unilateral reduction of duties, Copa-Cogeca has sent a letter to DG Trade, asking that sensitive sectors should not be included in this package, as production standards, particularly those for animal welfare, are not equivalent to those of European producers, who recently had to upgrade their production tools. The producers in neighboring countries will therefore be severely affected by this distortion of competition. The WP asked that Ukraine should remove the ban on ASF and accept EU regionalization.

Item 6: Exchange of views on the main priorities of the WP on the reform of the promotion policy

- Ms. Benites informed on the recent developments concerning the reform of the promotion policy at EU level. The WP approved the preliminary replies to the questionnaire concerning the main priorities of the sector for promotion [VP\(13\)9952 \(rev.3\)](#).

Item 7: Welfare

- The Chairman presented the action plan on pig welfare - [VP\(13\)3140 \(rev.1\)](#) – approved by the WP.
- Exchange of views on the draft guidelines prepared by the Commission on the provision of manipulable material and tail docking: The Chair informed on the main conclusion of the third extended working group (11th March) and the bilateral meeting with DG SANCO. The WP approved the following documents to be sent to DG SANCO: [VP\(14\)2892 \(rev.3\)](#) and [VP\(14\)3350 \(rev.2\)](#).
- Exchange of views and approval of the report prepared by the Copa-Cogeca expert group on manipulable material and tail docking The WP approved the report - [VP\(14\)3489 \(rev.2\)](#) - given that the comments put forward by the Swedish delegation are included and recommended this document be sent to DG SANCO.
- Pig Castration - State of play on the activities of the expert group on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs The Chairman debriefed on the main conclusions of the meeting of the sub-groups on information, training and communication that took place on 29 January. The Secretariat informed that the next meeting of the expert group on pig castration would take place May 22 followed by a meeting of the sub-group on traditional products (May 24).
- EU guide for assessing fitness for transport of pigs – state of play: The Chair informed on the main conclusions of the meeting that took place in the morning, approved by the WP.

Item 8: State of play of the ongoing EU debate on the Commission's proposals on Animal Health and Official controls

- Mr. Di Rubbo debriefed on the last developments on the EU debate.

Item 9: Follow up on labeling of origin

- Mr. Valle informed on the recent developments concerning the labelling of origin of meat used as an ingredient. The Commission has published the report and sent it to the European Parliament and Member States in order to initiate a political debate.

Item 10: Information on the future of advisory groups

- The Chair informed that pigmeat was included in the Civil Dialogue Groups - Animal Products – together with beef, sheep, goat, pigmeat, poultry meat and eggs and beekeeping.

Item 11: AOB

- **Animal cloning** - The WP was informed on the recent developments [VP\(14\)3487 \(rev.1\)](#).