

MINUTES OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY MEETING ON POULTRY AND EGGS HELD ON 24.03.2014

PRESENT:

Schaeffer (Chair), Bourns (Vice-Chair), Ross, Renaghan, Janning, Pedicone, Rantala, Dirnena, Wells, Ford, Gagliardi, Biasucci, Comati, Quadro, Lima, Mira, Basto, Zubków, Lós, Kicinski, Verset, Kovalcuks, Granados, Nygaard, Riffard, Iuvew, Desbliquois, Endrodi, Hermet, Laxaback, Larsen, Matousek, Börger, Hubers, Guégan, Fernandez, Piedra, Marinov, Machander, Collado.

SECRETARIAT: Benites, Di Rubbo, Valle, Azevedo.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

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

→ The two documents were approved - [OV\(14\)41 \(rev.1\)](#), [OV\(14\)1349 \(rev.1\)](#). Three points were included in the agenda under AOB: Ukraine, update on labelling of rabbit meat and information on last developments on BREF.

Items 2: Latest information on the market situation & Feed Market update

→ The Secretariat presented the summary of market situation provided by the Forecast Working meeting.

Items 3: Trade

→ Ukraine – The Secretariat informed on the last developments and the concessions provided by both trade partners [BILAT\(14\)1880 \(rev.1\)](#). The WP expressed their opposition to the size of TRQs provided to Ukraine, as this country can export large quantities of cheap products to neighboring countries creating disruption of the market. Large Russian multinationals are in fact controlling most of the Ukrainian exports. The WP believes that these sectors should be considered sensitive and excluded from the agreement and underlined that EU standards are not respected in this country.

→ TTIP – The secretariat informed on the recent developments and presented the draft preliminary Impact Assessment on Poultry [BILAT\(14\)1868 \(rev.1\)](#). The WP should provide comments by 2nd May.

→ Mercosur and Thailand – The Secretariat debriefed on the recent developments of the negotiations. Following an exchange of views the Chairman concluded by pointing out the cumulative effect on poultry and eggs market resulting of all FTAs being negotiated: Ukraine, Thailand, TTIP and Mercosur.

Items 4: Promotion of poultrymeat and eggs – Information on recent developments at institutional level

→ Ms. Benites informed that no major developments are to be reported at this stage and recalled the preliminary reply to the Copa-Cogeca's questionnaire [OV\(13\)9882 \(rev.2\)](#), which will help the WP to elaborate the best strategy for the sectors. The Secretariat clarified that the Commission proposed to enlarge promotion to all products included in the annex I. In principle no restrictions will be imposed when it comes to the subjects to be promoted.

Items 5: European poultry transport guide – Poultry health and welfare during transport, from farm to slaughterhouse

→ A.v.e.c., the Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU, presented a proposal to elaborate a joint European poultry transport guide [OV\(14\)983 \(rev.2\)](#). Following an exchange of views, the WP approved its participation in the elaboration of the guide and mandated the secretariat to discuss with other relevant European organizations their participation in this guide (FVE,

transporters, NGO's). The WP provided comments to the guide to be taken in account in the document [OV\(14\)6119 \(rev.1\)](#).

Items 6: Discussion: How to communicate the responsible use of antibiotics?

→ Mr. Di Rubbo informed on the activities carried out by EPRUMA in this context. Mr. Bourns presented the draft joint statement on communication of the responsible use of antibiotics - [OV\(14\)2397 \(rev.1\)](#). The objective of this statement is to communicate on what has been done at a volunteer level by the food chain in this respect. The WP approved the draft document to be presented and discussed at the advisory group meeting.

Items 7: State of Play of the implementation of the action plan on animal welfare 2012-2015: activities carried out so far and update as well on EUWELNET – outcome of the pilot project

→ Mr Di Rubbo briefed on the recent developments on the action plan on animal welfare 2012-2015. Ms Nygard informed on the last activities carried out so far in the pilot project and drew the attention to the EUWELNET project. She underlined that this is part of the Commission strategy.

→ Mr. Charles Bourns reported to the group on the conference on animal welfare of 12 February.

Item 8: State of Play of the Commission's proposal on animal health, official controls and expenditure

→ Mr Di Rubbo from the Secretariat provided information on the recent developments on Animal Health Law and Official Controls and expenditure. Copa-Cogeca is fighting to exempt producers from control fees and is preparing a letter to be sent to the Council. In the Council the Greek presidency will hold some meetings but it will be the Italian presidency that will probably finalise this dossier.

Item 12: Information on the decision on Civil Dialogue Groups in agricultural sector

→ The Chair informed that the Commission is reviewing the DG AGRI advisory groups in order to respond to the call of the European Parliament aiming to increase transparency and balance to the expert groups. Following the letter sent by the Chairmanship of the advisory group in October 2013, Mr Plewa (Director General of DG AGRI) has replied [OV\(13\)8305 \(rev.1\)](#) very vaguely. The Chair concluded by suggesting delegates to express their concerns in the advisory group meeting under point AOB.

Item 14: AOB

→ Information on labelling of Rabbit Meat. Art.26(5) of Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers stipulates that by 13 December 2014, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for unprocessed meat other than beef, pig, poultry sheep and goat meat. Therefore, rabbit meat will be included in this report. To write this report, DG AGRI has selected a contractor (LEI-Wageningen University) which should investigate and collect the data that would allow the Commission to assess the need for consumers to be informed regarding the origin of 'other types of meat' - It means fresh and frozen meat including minced meat and cuts of domestic ungulates, domestic solipeds, lagomorphs (rabbits, hares and rodents), small wild games birds and lagomorphs living freely in the wild or farmed). In order to prepare the contribution of the Rabbit sector on this topic, the Secretariat has prepared a questionnaire [OV\(14\)1645 \(rev.1\)](#). Based on the contribution received from the Members the Secretariat will draft a contribution. Due to the limited number of contributions received so far the Chairman called for additional contributions by 2nd May 2014.

→ Information on last developments on BREF - Mr. Bourns informed that the European IPPC Bureau (JRC) is revising the IED (Industrial Emissions Directive) Best Available Techniques Reference (BREF) draft document for intensive rearing of pigs and poultry. The Secretariat has sent a contribution approved by Praesidium [VP\(13\)6975 \(rev.1\)](#) and [VP\(13\)6976 \(rev.1\)](#). The next steps will include the finalisation of the background paper and of the remaining parts of the revised IRPP BREF by the Commission services. The background paper will be published at least four weeks in advance of the final Technical Working Group meeting.