

2014

**CONGRESS
OF
EUROPEAN FARMERS**
Brussels • 06.10 – 08.10

#CAPCounts !

The new
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
and Family Farming:
growth and employment for EU rural areas

Programme and Speeches





www.copa-cogeca.eu

Welcome message from the Presidents of Copa and Cogeca

Dear Congress Participants,

We have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 2014 Congress of European Farmers in Brussels. The theme of the Congress 2014 is "The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2014-2020 and Family Farming: growth and employment for EU rural areas". The aim of it is to launch a debate on the new CAP and to discuss in particular its implementation and how it can benefit family farms and agri-cooperatives, rural development, growth and jobs. It comes during the United Nations International Year of Family Farming 2014. It will look at the importance of research and innovation for a viable agriculture sector and examine what further actions are needed. There will be panel debates on how EU competitiveness can be improved and how can CAP reform respond as well as on how to ensure the common nature of CAP reform in the future.

The Congress brings together delegates from the 28 Member States of the EU as well as from our partner organisations in Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, with around 650 participants.

We believe that the EU agriculture sector, which employs almost 26 million people most of which are family farms handed down for generations, is the hub of EU rural areas, providing quality sustainable food supplies for 500 million European consumers at the same time as maintaining the environment and biodiversity. EU-28 agricultural production is worth over 400 billion euros. The EU is also the world's number one exporter of agricultural and food products, representing three quarters of the EU net-trade balance.

Yet family farms and their cooperatives are facing increasing challenges like high input costs, climate change and an increasing risk of extreme weather events, barriers to trade. They are also currently being hit by international politics – something which they are not responsible for. Often the producer price drops resulting from these are not passed onto consumers, providing a new opportunity for retailers to cut

prices to producers and causing additional imbalances in the EU agri-food chain. That is why at this Congress we will aim to find solutions to this and actions needed to ensure family farms and their cooperatives have a viable future. In the wake of growing world food demand, expected to rise by 60% by 2050, an innovative and profitable EU agriculture sector is more important than ever.

We are delighted that so many high-level speakers are participating in the event to debate this with us, including European Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos who will look at how the new CAP can benefit family farms and agri-cooperatives. The EU Council Presidency will look at priority actions under the Presidency whilst European Parliaments' Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Chairman Mr Siekierski will outline new Parliament priorities and prospects for family farms and agri-cooperatives.

In preparation for the main Congress event on October 7, there will be two Seminars on October 6 looking at these issues in depth. The first will focus on future economic challenges facing family farmers and how the new CAP can respond. The second will focus on how EU rural development policy can deliver sustainability, competitiveness and employment for EU family farmers. On October 8, a seminar looking at the contribution of multifunctional forest management to rural development is being organised. The events are all included in Copa-Cogecas' CAP Counts! Campaign.

We very much hope that you will enjoy the Congress and debate with us the future of family farms, agri-cooperatives and how the new CAP can respond.

Yours faithfully,

Albert Jan Maat, President of Copa

Christian Pèes, President of Cogeca

Programme

Monday,
October 6

Thematic Seminars related to the new CAP and how it can respond to the needs of family farms and agri-cooperatives

- Place: The Square, Brussels Meeting Centre, Glass Entrance, Mont des Arts – Kunstberg, 1000 Brussels
 - Languages: English, French, German; Spanish, Italian, Polish, Romanian
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09.00-13.00 Seminar 1

Future economic challenges for family farming in Europe.

The event will look at rising input costs like energy as well as extreme market volatility and how new risk management measures under CAP reform can respond.

14.30-18.15 Seminar 2

How can Rural Development Policy deliver sustainability, competitiveness and employment for EU family farms ?

In the context of the United Nations International Year of Family Farms, Copa-Cogeca will bring together stakeholders to understand how the newly adopted Rural Development Policy can help to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of family farmers and agri-cooperatives whilst at the same time as looking at employment in rural areas. The womens innovation prize will also be presented there.

18.00

Cocktail reception and opportunity to visit the Rubens Art Exhibition "Sensation & Sensuality. Rubens and his legacy"

19.30 for 20.00-23.00

Seated Gala dinner

• Gala Dinner and Cocktail Reception:

Place : Palais des Beaux Arts , 23 Rue Ravenstein, 1000 Brussels



Agenda

Tuesday,
October 7

Main Plenary Event

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Family Farming: growth and employment for EU rural areas

- Place: The Square, Brussels Meeting Centre, Glass Entrance, Mont des Arts – Kunstberg, 1000 Brussels
- Languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Romanian

08.00 Coffee and Registration

09.00 Opening speeches by Copa President Albert Jan Maat (LTO, Netherlands) and Cogeca President Christian Pèes (Coop de France, France)

09.20 Italian Secretary of State for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy Giuseppe Castiglione, Italian Agriculture Council Presidency: CAP reform implementation, International Year of Family Farms and priority actions under the Presidency

09.45 European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloș: how can CAP reform benefit family farms and agri-cooperatives?

10.10 European Parliament Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Chairman [Mr Czesław Siekierski](#): New Parliament priorities and prospects for family farms and agri-cooperatives

10.35 Latvian Secretary of State for Agriculture [Aivars Lapins](#), next to hold EU Agriculture Council Presidency: Upcoming Latvian Presidency priorities and actions for family farms and cooperatives

11.00 Coffee break

11.10 Copa Vice-President [Ricardo Serra Arias](#) (ASAJA, Spain): Farmers views on innovation and technology under the new CAP and how to ensure a productive EU agriculture and forestry sector

11.30 Panel Debate: how can competitiveness be improved in the Single Market and how can CAP reform respond?

Moderator: Xavier Simon , Agra Europe

Copa Vice-President Xavier Beulin (FNSEA, France) ; MEP Michel Dantin (EPP, France) ; Copa Vice-President Harry Sinclair (UFU, Ulster); Dominique Michel (Eurocommerce); Robert Carlson (NFU, USA); Jean-Charles Bocquet (ECPA Director-General)



Agenda

Tuesday,
October 7

**Copa-Cogeca Main Plenary
Event**

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.00 Press Conference

14.30 Presentations and Conclusions from Seminars

14.50 Wilhelm Molterer, Vice President and member of the management committee of the European Investment Bank: Opportunities for investment in the EU agriculture and forestry sector: creating green growth and rural employment

15.10 [Eduardo Baamonde](#), Member of Cogeca Presidency (Cooperativas Alimentarias, Spain): Agri-Cooperatives as a tool to improve family farmers positioning in the food chain

15.30 How to ensure the common nature of CAP reform in the future:

Presentation: Polish Agriculture [Minister Marek Sawicki](#)

Panel debate:

Moderator: Ed Bray, Agra Facts

Panel: Polish Agriculture Minister Marek Sawicki; Director General of the Spanish Agriculture Ministry Fernando Miranda; Copa Vice-President Jerzy Chroscikowski (Solidarnosc, Poland); Cogeca Vice-President Thomas Magnusson (LRF, Sweden); Ms Slavova (EESC); Joachim Rukwied (DBV, Germany); [Jacob B.Hansen](#) (Director-General, Fertilisers Europe asbl); Alejandro Bernal (Zoetis EVP & Area President EuAfME)

17.00 Challenges Facing Family Farms across the World

FAO Ambassador for UN International Year of Family Farms Gerd Sonnleitner: Introductory remarks

WFO Vice-President Dr Evelyn Nguleka: Challenges Facing Family Farms in Africa

Vladimir N.Plotnikov, President Akkor: The Role of Family Farms in Russia

[Rolf Hackbart](#), FAO Deputy Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development: Results from UN International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) and expectations for concluding FAO event



18.00 Copa President Albert Jan Maat (LTO, Netherlands), Cogeca Vice-President Maria Antónia Silva Figueiredo (Confagri, Portugal): conclusions and closing remarks

18.15-20.00 Reception at the Square

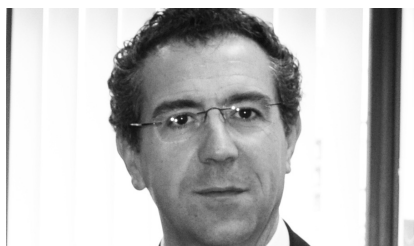
Wednesday,
October 8

09.00-13.00 Seminar 3
The Contribution of multifunctional forest management to rural development.
The event will look at how to enhance the role of forests in the newly adopted Rural Development Policy to better contribute to the development of rural areas and to respond to the new challenges and opportunities that the forest sector faces.

- Place: Copa-Cogeca, 61 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Brussels
- Languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Romanian



Speakers



Eduardo BAAMONDE

Mr Baamonde is a Member of the Cogeca Presidency. He was also Cogeca Vice-President in 2010 and Cogeca President in 2003. He has also been Director-General of the Spanish Agri-Food Cooperatives since 2000 and has worked there since 1992. This organisation represents almost 4000 cooperatives and 1 million farmers, with a turnover of 14 billion euros.



Albert Jan MAAT

Albert Jan Maat has been Copa President since 2013. He has been President of the Dutch Farmers Union LTO since 2007 and was Member of the European Parliament over the period 1999-2007. He has also been Copa Vice-President for four years.



Dacian CIOLOS

Mr Ciolos has been the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development since February 2010. From 2005 to 2007, he was an adviser to Romania's Agriculture Minister, and a representative in the European Council's Special Committee on Agriculture. From October 2007 to December 2008, he was appointed to Agriculture Minister.



Maria ANTÓNIA FIGUEIREDO

Ms Maria Antónia Figueiredo has been Vice-President of Cogeca since 2012 and she is Deputy Secretary-General of CONFAGRI. She is also an olive oil producer and trained as an agronomist.



Christian PÈES

Mr Pèes is currently President of Cogeca. He is also a member of Coop de France and Chairman of the Board for the Euralis Group where he has promoted the cooperative model. The Euralis Group is the leading global producer of foie gras; the leading French maize producer and major supplier for Bordeaux and Bergerac wine producers. He is also a family farmer producing maize and breeding pigs.



Czesław SIERKIERSKI

Czesław Sierkierski, PhD, from Poland is currently chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Over the period 2001-2003, he was Secretary of State in the Polish Ministers for Agriculture and Rural Development. He has a PhD in Economic and Agricultural Studies and was previously a lecturer and author of many publications at the Warsaw Agricultural University.



Pekka PESONEN

Pekka Pesonen, from Finland, has been Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General since 2007 and was State Secretary in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry from 2005-2007. Over the period 1997-2005, he was dairy and livestock advisor in Brussels for the Pellervo Federation of Finnish Co-operatives and Finnish farmers' unions MTK and SLC.



Marek SAWICKI

Mr Marek Sawicki from the Polish People's Party is currently the Polish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. Previous positions include Secretary of State at the Ministry of Communications, Government Plenipotentiary for Rural Telecommunications over the period 1996-97.



Wilhelm MOLTERER

Mr Molterer from Austria is currently Vice-President and member of the management committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB). He was previously a Member of Parliament as well as Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance; Chairman of the Austrian People's Party.



Rolf HACKBART

Rolf Hackbart is currently Deputy Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Before joining FAO, he was President of the National Agrarian Settlement and Land Reform Institute (INCRA) responsible for implementing Brazil's National Agrarian Reform Plan.



Giuseppe CASTIGLIONE

Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione is currently Secretary of State for the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. He previously held the same position under the Letta government. In 2004, he was a member of European Parliament in the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.



Ricardo SERRA ARIAS

Mr Ricardo Serra Arias is currently Vice-President of Copa and President of the Spanish farm organisation Asaja-Sevilla and of Asaja-Andalucia. He is also Vice-President of Asaja-Nacional and is a family farmer producing citrus fruit, potatoes and maize. Since 2006, he is also a member of the European Technology Platform Plants for the Future.

Speakers



Vladimir N. PLOTNIKOV

Vladimir N. Plotnikov is Director General of the Akkor Association which has a vast range of experience in law-making and legislative areas, in creating and supporting rural economic infrastructure, in providing training and internships for member farmers, by advocating for family farms, and enhancing the development of agricultural consumer cooperation.



Evelyn NGULEKA

Evelyn Nguleka is President of the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) and Vice-President of the World Farmers Organisation (WFO). She studied veterinary science and she has been advocating for protecting local farmers and food producers. She is a smallholder family farmer and is also particularly close to the women and young farmers in the ZNFU.



Aivars LAPINS

Aivars Lapins is currently the Latvian Secretary of State for Agriculture and Latvia will be the next to hold EU Agriculture Council Presidency in January 2015.



Gerd SONNLEITNER

Gerd Sonnleitner is currently FAO Ambassador for the UN International Year of Family Farms. He was former President of Copa and was President of the German Farmers Union Deutscher Bauernverband (DBV). He also runs a 100 hectare farm in Ruhstorf, near Passau, Germany.

WEBSITE

CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN
FARMERS 2014

Further information on Copa-Cogeca, Congress and press releases, position papers and fact sheets can be found on: **www.copa-cogeca.eu**

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