

FEEDING EUROPE'S FUTURE

CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN FARMERS

Programme

#FarmersCongress18

10-11-12th
October
2018

Linz





Welcome Message from the Presidents of Copa and Cogeca



Dear Copa members, dear participants,

Representing the voice of over 23 million European farmers and their families, Copa is delighted to welcome you all to the 2018 edition of our

Congress of European Farmers here in Linz, Austria. This edition of the Congress is entitled “Feeding Europe’s Future”. It is a simple title, that effectively reflects our profession’s responsibility, but also its crucial role in our society. We farmers are the custodians of the land, safeguarding it and passing it from one generation to the next.

While the EU agricultural sector provides society with multiple benefits, such as supplying safe and high-quality food, maintaining rural areas and fostering growth and jobs, it also faces many challenges. During this Congress we want to focus our attention and debates on both. How we can do more and do better in the future to ensure that we can continue to feed and sustain European society, and what do we need from the policies and decision-makers in order to achieve this?

Part of the Congress will focus on some of the most pressing issues in the upcoming period, including the CAP reform, the importance of an adequate EU budget, the upcoming EU elections and the challenge of Brexit for our sector. The CAP is a crucial policy for us and one of the pillars of the European single market and the European project in general. As such, it needs to be supported by a strong budget, it needs to be simple for farmers, and it needs to allow for the sustainable development of our sector.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and your contributions on these important topics during this two-day Congress. We need to think about the future, take into account the current challenges and act sooner rather than later. Our actions, unity and strength should reflect what we want these policies to be: implementable, unifying, strong and capable of delivering for European farmers and citizens.

We wish you all a pleasant Congress,

Joachim Rukwied, President of Copa



Dear Cogeca members, dear participants,

Representing the interests of over 22,000 cooperatives throughout Europe, Cogeca is pleased to welcome you to the 2018 Congress of European

Farmers in Linz, Austria. The theme chosen for this edition reflects both our profound ambition and the objective that lies at the heart of our activities: “Feeding Europe’s Future”. As you know, from a political point of view, the next months will be decisive in many areas for the decade to come. As this mandate comes to an end, the list of subjects on the table of European decision-makers is still long, be it the CAP, our trade relations with Mercosur, Japan and the UK, or more generally, the future of the European Union in light of the elections in May.

These short-term imperatives – which bring with them a number of uncertainties – should push us to develop a vision for the future of our sector in the longer term, whether with regard to farm management, the integration of new technologies, future agronomic practices, or our approach to the climate issue. The aim of this Congress is therefore to provide you with spaces for reflection on these long-term issues. I am convinced that behind every challenge lies an opportunity. It is up to us to clearly identify such opportunities together. We cooperatives must also work harder than ever to integrate new generations of farmers. That is the only way to ensure a competitive, resilient and sustainable European agricultural sector.

In this respect, I am delighted to have the chance to hear from high-level speakers, including the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, the Austrian Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, Elisabeth Köstinger, and Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD. They will outline their visions for the future of the sector as well as the opportunities to be seized in our rural areas.

We hope that you will enjoy this Congress and that you will make the most of this opportunity to discuss all of these current and future topics with us.

I wish you all a successful Congress, Thomas Magnusson, President of Cogeca

Thomas Magnusson, President of Cogeca

Congress 2018

Feeding Europe's future

SCOPE

A number of strategic debates impacting the future of the EU and its policies will continue throughout the current year and all the way up to the next European elections (tentative date 23rd-26th May 2019). Among these, the future budget of the Union (MFF) as well as the future CAP are very relevant.

Other on-going processes such as Brexit and international bilateral trade negotiations will also play a decisive role in the political discussions.

With these in mind, the Congress aims to look at how the challenges affecting the EU and, in particular, the agricultural sector can be turned into opportunities to deliver more sustainable, competitive and economically viable European agriculture.

The role of European agriculture in a global context, be it in terms of environmental and climate commitments, innovation or trade, will also be discussed.

Farmers are the first producers of food. They seek to provide European consumers with safe, secure and high-quality food at affordable prices, whilst also helping to improve the EU's environmental status and contributing to growth and jobs.

Follow the event at **#FarmersCongress18**

Interpretation will be available throughout the Congress in English, French, German, Italian, Polish, and Spanish.



10th OCTOBER 2018

A workshop will be held in preparation for the Congress' main plenary session on October 11th.

Location: Design Centre, Linz, Austria

Workshop: Solutions for the future of farming

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Coffee and registration
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Opening
2:10 – 4.00 p.m.	Session 1: "The importance of wildlife management for agriculture"
4:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Coffee break
4:10 – 6:00 p.m.	Session 2: "Smart business models for the future of farming"
7:30 p.m.	Dinner cruise on the Danube river, Linz, Austria

Wednesday,
10th October

Workshop

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Linz, Austria

Solutions for the future of farming

CONCEPT

Session 1 – The importance of wildlife management for agriculture

EU farmers and agri-cooperatives produce under the highest standards worldwide, in particular in terms of the environment and animal health and welfare. At the same, the sector is facing significant challenges affecting its sustainability. One of these challenges relates to the interaction between wildlife and livestock, which has led to the transmission of diseases, competition of resources and direct predation. Recent examples of this are African Swine Fever and Avian Influenza, together with increased pressure from large carnivores and other conflicting species.

This session will focus on solutions to reduce these conflicts and to ensure that the above-mentioned challenges do not jeopardise the viability of livestock farming in the future. New technologies and innovative approaches for livestock protection or the monitoring of wildlife populations play a key role here.

During the session, we aim to tackle the following questions:

- ◇ *What are the obstacles to and solutions for reducing conflicts and enhancing the coexistence of wild and farm animals?*
 - ◇ *What are the main areas for improving the interaction between wildlife and livestock production?*
 - ◇ *How is it possible to balance legitimate social expectations with the economic impact of wildlife on animal health and welfare?*
 - ◇ *What can the different actors/stakeholders do in favour of an integrated management approach?*
-

Wednesday,
10th October

Workshop

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Linz, Austria

Session 2 – Smart business models for the future of farming

Farmers and agri-cooperatives are already investing in and applying innovative solutions in order to compete in dynamic markets and respect the high EU standards, while also ensuring the high quality of EU produce and the sustainability of their businesses. Precision farming presents an opportunity but it needs to deliver results for the farming community in order to:

- Improve the use of resources (e.g. animal health and welfare, machinery, PPPs, fertilisers, etc.)
- Foster farming entrepreneurship, adapt business plans, respond to dynamic markets and consumer expectations, and inspire respect for the environment and rural communities
- Optimise the use of market-related tools, facilitating the sales and competitiveness of EU farmers on a global scale
- Decrease administrative and bureaucratic costs and enable science-based policies
- Help farmers to increase transparency and negotiate a better position in the value chain
- Provide better and more prosperous living conditions for rural communities

The uptake of new technologies remains below what is expected. EU farmers and agri-cooperatives can contribute here by improving understanding of how precision farming can serve the multi-functionality of EU agricultural and food systems. Moreover, EU farmers and agri-cooperatives can help determine what is missing in order to close the gaps. This session will serve as a platform to discuss how various policies and tools can help farmers to remain at the heart of the business plans they choose to apply on their farms, opting for the precision farming techniques that they consider most fit for purpose.

- How can farmers and agri-cooperatives use innovative tools and technologies to improve their market reward while also using their resources more efficiently?
 - In which disruptive technologies (precision farming) should farmers and agri-cooperatives invest in order to adapt their business plans to the next decade?
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Programme

Wednesday,
10th October

Workshop

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Linz, Austria

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Coffee and registration

2:00 – 2:10 p.m. Opening words by Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa and Cogeca

Session 1 *The importance of wildlife management for agriculture*
Moderator: David Lamb, ENRD Policy Analyst

2:10 – 2:15 p.m. Introduction by the moderator

2:15 – 3:00 p.m. **Panel debate 1: “The role of wildlife in animal health and welfare”**

Setting the scene: Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo, Adviser to the Director for crisis management in food, animals and plants, European Commission, DG SANTE

Panellists:

- ◆ Didier Delmotte, President, European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security – FESASS
- ◆ Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo, Adviser to the Director for crisis management in food, animals and plants, European Commission, DG SANTE
- ◆ Miguel Ángel Higuera, Chairman of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Animal Health and Welfare

3:00 – 3:50 p.m. **Panel debate 2: “Large carnivores – conservation success and source of conflicts”**

Setting the scene: Michèle Boudoin, Chairwoman of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Sheepmeat

Panellists:

- ◆ Klaus Hackländer, Head of the Institute of Wildlife Biology and Game Management at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)
- ◆ Alberto Arroyo Schnell, Senior Policy Manager, IUCN European Regional Office
- ◆ Michèle Boudoin, Chairwoman of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Sheepmeat

3:50 – 4:00 p.m. **Concluding remarks** by the moderator

4:00 – 4:10 p.m. Coffee break

Session 2 *Smart business models for the future of farming*

Moderator: Max Schulman, cereal farmer, Chairman of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Cereals and Oilseeds

4:10 – 4:20 p.m. Introduction by the moderator

4:20 – 5:05 p.m. **Panel debate 1: “New technologies in the agri-food sector”**

Setting the scene: Edwin Hecker, IOF2020 “Ecosystem Development” Work Package Leader, Internet of Food and Farm 2020 (IoF2020)

Wednesday,
10th October

Workshop

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Linz, Austria

Panellists:

- ◆ Franz Reisecker, President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Upper Austria
 - ◆ Jacob Hansen, Director General, Fertilizers Europe
 - ◆ Edwin Hecker, IOF2020 “Ecosystem Development” Work Package Leader
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5:05 – 5:50 p.m. Panel debate 2: “Reflections on disruptive new business ideas and new talent”

Setting the scene: **Fendt Xaver - Future Farming by Robotics**

Dr. Heribert Reiter, Vice President Engineering Tractors Global, AGCO Corporation

Panellists:

- ◆ Jean-Philippe Azoulay, Director General, ECPA
 - ◆ Ramón Armengol, Board member, Ivars d'Urgell Cooperative
 - ◆ Jérôme Bandry, Secretary General, CEMA
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5:50 – 6.00 p.m. Concluding remarks by the moderator

6:00 p.m. End of session

Speakers



Pekka PESONEN

Pekka Pesonen

Mr Pekka Pesonen is the Secretary General of Copa, representing European farmers, and Cogeca, representing European agri-cooperatives, which together bring together more than 70 national farming organisations from across Europe. Previously, he worked as State Secretary for the Finnish Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, Mr Pesonen has extensive professional experience in lobbying at EU level on behalf of Finnish farmers, forest owners (MTK and SLC) and agri-forestry cooperatives (Pellervo). In the 1990s, he worked in the sales and marketing department of Valio, a Finnish dairy company. Mr Pesonen has also been a member of several high level advisory groups concerning EU policy preparation. He is a qualified agronomist, with a degree in Agricultural Economics from University of Helsinki.



David Lamb

David has over 20 years of experience, which started in food and drink manufacturing, and marketing in 1997. From 2003, David then led the Food and Drink Team within Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), managing their specialist advisory and consultancy work. In 2012, he helped to create and then manage the Think Local programme – the Scottish Government's first local food and drink development programme. Since 2014, David has been working for the European Network for Rural Development Contact Point based in Brussels, heading up the work on strengthening the ties between the National Rural Networks across the EU 28 in their delivery of Rural Development Policy. He is an experienced lecturer, trainer and facilitator, specialising in international food marketing and rural development.



Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo

Dr Reviriego Gordejo is currently an adviser to the Director for crisis management in food, animals and plants at DG SANTE. He joined the European Commission in 2001 as a Legislative Veterinary Officer. In 2005, he was Head of the Epidemiology and Eradication section, and in 2008 he became Head of the Disease Control and Identification section. He is also the founding member of the Spanish Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Association and the Spanish Veterinary Epidemiologists Association.

Dr Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo holds a postgraduate diploma in Statistics and Design in Health Sciences (2000) and obtained both his PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology (1999) and his degree in Veterinary Science (1988) from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He also worked as an official veterinarian for the autonomous region of Castilla y León where he was responsible for implementing eradication programmes and BSE regional surveillance programmes. From 1990 to 1991, he worked as a veterinarian with the Pig Farmers' Association and following this, from 1991 to 1996, he was head of the Animal Health Laboratory of Avila.



Didier Delmotte

Didier Delmotte is a Belgian cattle farmer from the Liege province. For more than 30 years, he managed a dairy farm with more than 400 heads of cattle. However, after the milk price crisis, he decided to stop dairy production in early 2016 and to instead focus his activity on the production of Belgian Blue. In 2017, he began producing organic meat, mainly concentrating on the Limousin breed of cattle. He also cultivates 70 hectares of crops. Didier's commitment to the Belgian and European farmers' organisations dates back to when he was elected President of the young farmers' organisation for the North Luxembourg province at the age of 19. He was a board member within the Wallonian Agricultural Federation (FWA) up until 2012. He has also been a board member within his dairy plant for many years and has been managing his local Cooperative for the use of agricultural equipment (CUMA) since 1992. Last but not least, Didier takes a great interest in animal health and welfare. He is a member of the Wallonian Animal Health and Identification Board (ARSIA) and was elected President of The European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security (FESASS) in June 2009.



Miguel Ángel Higuera

Miguel Ángel Higuera Pascual is currently the Head of the Spanish National Association of Pig Producers (ANPROGAPOR). He represents the Spanish pig sector in the Pig Meat Forecasting Committee and the Civil Dialogue Group, both within DG Agri. He is also Chairman of the Animal Health and Welfare Working Party and Vice-Chairman of the Pig Meat Working Party, both within Copa-Cogeca. He has a degree in Veterinary Science from Complutense University of Madrid, where he also attended the 2nd Specialisation Course in Pig Farming. He began his career at Kubus, S.A., while working in conjunction with the Biology Department of the School of Veterinary Medicine in Madrid.



Michèle Boudoin

Michèle Boudoin set up her farm from scratch 30 years ago in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, near Clermont-Ferrand in France.

Situated in the mountains, her 57-hectare farm, part of which she rents out, specialises in sheep production, with a flock of 500 ewes of a hardy breed: the Rava and Noire du Velay breeds. She is a member of COPAGNO, the cooperative for sheep producers in the Auvergne region, and markets her products via a PO. It was through Jeunes Agriculteurs (the French young farmers' union) that she became a director at the French National Sheep Federation, FNO, in 1994. She went on to become a member of the FNO Bureau and Deputy Secretary General, and was appointed Secretary General in 2008. In April 2015, she took over the Presidency, which she still holds. Michèle Boudoin was also a director at the FNSEA from 2011 to 2014. She was appointed Chair of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Sheep in June 2017.



Klaus Hackländer

Klaus Hackländer is the Head of the Institute of Wildlife Biology and Game Management at BOKU – the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. He is the President of the Applied Science Division of the International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). His research focuses on large carnivore management in the Alps and the Carpathian Mountains. Currently, Mr Hackländer is heading up two projects which are both centred on wolf management in the Eastern Alps.



Alberto Arroyo Schnell

Alberto Arroyo Schnell is responsible for managing and coordinating the policy work at the Brussels-based European Regional Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as well as for the IUCN European Work Programme. This work encompasses the IUCN's activities on sustainable agriculture, the CAP, biodiversity policy, the plastic/circular economy, climate change, the forest/land use debate and the overarching topic of SDGs. Before the IUCN, Alberto worked for the WWF's European Policy Office for many years, focussing on European biodiversity policy. Prior to this, he worked for a Spanish regional administration (La Rioja Region). Alberto Arroyo Schnell is Spanish with a background in forestry engineering.



Max Schulman

Max Schulman has a degree in agricultural economics and has been running an arable farm in south-west Finland since 1986. The farm, Stor-Tötär Gård, is an old family farm that has been in the family for over 300 years. Before taking on the full responsibility of running the farm, Max worked as a grain trader for the Finnish Grain Board. He also worked in the agricultural machinery sector (2003-2008) with Valtra tractors. Since 2008, he has been a cereals and oilseeds sector advisor within the Finnish Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK). Since 2013, he has been the Chairman of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Cereals. In addition to this, he is a co-owner of Polar Oats Ltd (a grain trading company owned and operated by farmers) and a co-founder and board member of GrainSense Ltd.



Edwin Hecker

Edwin Hecker is a managing partner at Schuttelaar & Partners. Besides this, he is involved in the more strategic and complex projects within S&P. One of these projects is the Internet of Farm and Food 2020 (IoF2020), for which Edwin is the work package leader for dissemination and communication. Edwin graduated in Industrial Engineering and Animal Breeding from the University of Wageningen and completed NIMA B (Marketing). In 1987, he joined the Ministry of Agriculture where he held several different positions relating to animal welfare, hormone legislation and veterinary guarantee systems. In 1997, he was appointed Chairman of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants and held this position until 2003. Edwin was appointed Deputy Director of the Department of Veterinary and Food Affairs in 2000. During his term, one of his tasks was to manage several crises, including the foot and mouth disease, swine fever and dioxin crises. In 2003, he was appointed Director of the Minister's Office and established contacts with members of the Dutch and European Parliament. Edwin is currently a member of the Groupe de Bruges (www.groupebruges.eu), an independent think tank on European agriculture and rural development.



Franz Reisecker

An engineering graduate and holder of the Austrian honorary title *ÖR* awarded to deserving farmers, the President of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Franz Reisecker, grew up on a dairy farm. In 1980, he took over a pig farm (1,000 fattening places) with a total surface area of 67 hectares, including 65 hectares of arable land, 2 hectares of grassland and an additional 2 hectares of forest. From 2002 to 2011, Franz Reisecker was Vice-President of the Chamber of Agriculture for Upper Austria. Since 2009, he has been Vice-President of the Austrian Farmers' Union, and since 2011, Vice-President of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture and President of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Agriculture. He has been the cooperatives lawyer for the Upper Austrian Raiffeisen Association since 2012. Since 2013, he has been a member of the supervisory board for the Austrian hail insurance company, *Österreichische Hagelversicherung*. Finally, he has been Vice-President of Copa since 2015.



Jacob Hansen

Jacob Hansen has been Director General at Fertilizers Europe since 2011. The association represents the majority of fertiliser producers in Europe and is recognised as being the main source of industry-related information on mineral fertilisers. He started his career working for the Danish agricultural sector in Copenhagen before moving to Brussels, where he worked for more than ten years as Director at the Danish Agriculture and Food Council. Mr Hansen has a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Aarhus in Denmark and a certificate in Executive Management from the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD).



Heribert Reiter

Dr Heribert Reiter, Vice-President and Managing Director for Research and Development at AGCO GmbH (Fendt) in Marktoberdorf, Germany, was elected to the Board of Chairmen of the VDMA Agricultural Machinery Association for the first time in 2016 and is one of the two Vice-Presidents.



Jean-Philippe Azoulay

Born in France, Jean-Philippe Azoulay is the Director General of the European Crop Protection Association, which represents the crop protection industry in Europe. A mechanical engineer by profession, with an MBA obtained in 1988, he spent 26 years working for DuPont in various senior roles, most recently as the Global Director of DuPont's Nutrition business. Having lived in numerous countries around the world, Jean-Philippe has a global view of the challenges facing the future of food and agriculture, and is passionate about the role private industry can play in providing innovative solutions to answer society's biggest challenges.



Ramón Armengol

Ramón Armengol is an active farmer and has been managing a pigmeat livestock farm for the past 20 years. He currently produces 2,500 tonnes of pigmeat and employs eight people on his farm. He is a board member within Agrifood Cooperative d Ivars (Lleida, Spain), the Regional Cooperative Federation of Catalunya, the Spanish Pigmeat Interbranch Organisation INTERPORC, the Spanish Agrifood Cooperatives and of the Spanish Interbranch Council (representing Spanish Agrifood Cooperatives). He is also the Chairman of the Pigmeat Board of Spanish Agrifood Cooperatives and Vice-President of Cogeca.



Jérôme Bandry

Jérôme Bandry is Secretary General of CEMA (www.cema-agri.org), the association representing the European agricultural machinery industry. With 10 national member associations, the CEMA network represents more than 4,500 manufacturers, producing over 450 different machine types and generating an aggregated annual turnover of more than 28 billion euros. 135,000 people are directly employed in the sector, with a further 125,000 people working in distribution and maintenance. Mr Bandry joined CEMA following an international career within a global machinery manufacturer, where he held several leadership positions with increasing responsibilities over 27 years and was corporate Director of EU Government Affairs. For over a decade, Mr Bandry has been actively involved in several European trade associations at sectoral and horizontal level, including leadership positions and Committee chairmanships.



Programme

Thursday,
11th October

Congress plenary

Design Centre
Linz, Austria

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Coffee and registration
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	Welcoming address by: Thomas Stelzer, Governor of Upper Austria Josef Moosbrugger, President of the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture Andreas Pangl, CEO of the Austrian Raiffeisen Association
9:10 – 9:20 a.m.	Opening speeches by Joachim Rukwied, Copa President, and by Thomas Magnusson, Cogeca President
9:20 – 9:40 a.m.	Keynote speech: Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Panel session 1: Sustainability and the Common Agricultural Policy Moderator: Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor
9:40 – 9:55 a.m.	Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, President-in-office of the EU Agriculture Council
9:55 – 10:05 a.m.	Czesław Adam Siekierski, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament
10:05 – 10:15 a.m.	Mari Kiviniemi, OECD Deputy Secretary-General
10:15 – 11:10 a.m.	Debate
11:10 – 11:30 a.m.	Coffee break
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Panel session 2: Agriculture and forestry and the EU's environment & climate ambitions Moderator: Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor Panel: Henri Brichart, Copa Vice-President; Pierre Bascou, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission; Andreas Beckmann, Managing Director of the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 – 2:40 p.m.	Reporting back from the workshop by Mindaugas Maciulevičius, Cogeca Vice-President

Programme

Thursday,
11th October

Congress plenary

Design Centre
Linz, Austria

2:40 – 4:15 p.m.

Panel session 3: Trade and Brexit

Moderator: Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor

Panel: Martin Merrild, Copa Vice-President; María Angeles Benítez Salas, DG AGRI Deputy Director-General; Minette Batters, President of NFU England & Wales

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Coffee break

4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

Panel session 4: Investment as a driver of competitiveness

Moderator: Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor

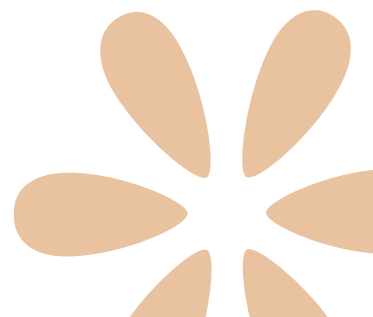
Panel: Christian Pèes, Euralis President; Jannes Maes, CEJA President; Heinrich Schaller, CEO of the Raiffeisenlandesbank Upper Austria

5:45 – 6:00 p.m.

Closing speeches by Joachim Rukwied, Copa President, and by Thomas Magnusson, Cogeca President

8:00 p.m.

Gala dinner at the Monastery of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine's Order at St. Florian



Speakers



Joachim Rukwied

Joachim Rukwied is the current President of Copa. He has been President of the German Farmers Association (DBV) since 27th June 2012. In addition, he has been President of the Regional Farmers Association of Baden-Württemberg since 2006 and is involved in various professional organisations on a voluntary basis. After training to become a farmer, he completed a degree in agriculture at the Nürtingen University of Applied Sciences, qualifying as a graduate engineer in 1987. He went on to become a partner on his parents' farm in Eberstadt. In 1994, he took over the business on his own. To date, he produces arable crops, wine as well as field vegetables.



Thomas Magnusson

Thomas Magnusson is the President of Cogeca, the voice of European Agri-Cooperatives. Together with his son, he runs a mixed dairy farm and forest outside the city of Växjö in south-central Sweden. He has been a board member of the Lantmännen group since 2005 and prior to this was the first Vice-President of the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF). The LRF is an interest and business organisation for the green industry with approximately 150,000 individual members. Together they represent some 90,000 enterprises, which makes LRF the largest organisation for small enterprises in Sweden.



Phil Hogan

Mr Phil Hogan has been the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development since 1st November 2014. From 1989 up until he became Commissioner, he represented the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency in Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament, where he served in the Fine Gael party shadow cabinet and as spokesman on Europe, the food industry, consumer affairs and regional policy. Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Minister for the Environment and Local Government in the Irish government of Prime Minister Enda Kenny TD. He has also occupied various senior positions at local, national and European level, including President of the Council of EU Environment Ministers (2013), Chairman of the European People's Party of Environment Ministers (2012-14), National Director of Elections for the Fine Gael Party (2010-11), Fine Gael Director of Organisation (2002-07), Chairman of Kilkenny County Council (1985 and 1998), Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Group (1995-2001) and Minister of State at the Irish Department of Finance (1994-95).

Before entering into politics, he established and subsequently directed an insurance and real estate business. Between 1981 and 1983, he managed his family farm. He graduated from University College Cork with a BA in Economics and Geography in 1981.



Dimitri Houtart

Dimitri is passionate about food, food production and the environment. As the BBC's Rural Affairs Champion, Dimitri helps and advises on the coverage of rural issues across the whole of the BBC. Dimitri also has direct responsibility for all of the BBC Radio 4's rural affairs, food and environment programming. Dimitri's portfolio includes the daily news programme Farming Today as well as series such as Costing the Earth, The Food Programme and many more. He also looks after some programmes for the BBC World Service. In total, he is responsible for nearly 500 programmes a year. Over the years, Dimitri has won several national and international awards for his productions.

Dimitri is passionate about disability rights and is a strong advocate for the integration of people with disabilities in all parts of society. He also sits on the advisory board of HRH the Prince of Wales' responsible business organisation: Business in the Community.



Elisabeth Köstinger

Elisabeth Köstinger has been the Austrian Federal Minister for Sustainability and Tourism since December 2017. In 2017, she was President of the National Council and from 2009 to 2017 she was an Austrian Member of the European Parliament. Ms Köstinger is a Member of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). Furthermore, she is Vice-President of the Austrian Farmers Association and Vice-Chair of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party. From 2012 to 2017, she was the President of "wald.zeit Österreich Plattform für Waldkommunikation", a platform for forest communication and from 2014 to 2017, she was both the President and Vice-President of the "Ökosoziale Forum Europa", the Ecosocial Forum Europe.



Czesław Adam Siekierski

Czesław Adam Siekierski is a Polish politician and Member of the European Parliament for the Polish Voivodship of Lesser Poland and Swietokrzyskie within the Polish People's Party, which is part of the European People's Party (EPP). On 7th July 2014, Mr Siekierski was elected Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. He is also a member of the Conference of Committee Chairs and the Delegation for relations with Canada. In addition to this, he is a substitute for the Committee on Budgetary Control and for the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.



Mari Kiviniemi

Mari Kiviniemi took up her duties as OECD Deputy Secretary-General in August 2014. She is responsible for the strategic oversight of the OECD's work on Efficient and Effective Governance; Territorial Development; Trade and Agriculture, Statistics; for advancing the Better Life Initiative; as well as Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. Ms Kiviniemi served as Finland's Prime Minister from 2010 to 2011. Prior to this, she was Special Advisor on Economic Policy to the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Minister for European Affairs and Minister of Public Administration and Local Government. She also held a variety of leadership positions within her political party, the Finnish Centre Party. She holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki.



Henri Brichart

Henri Brichart is a farmer. He manages a 215-hectare farm with 2 partners. They deliver 1,000,000 litres of milk to a cooperative and raise 60 ewes. Since 1995, Henri Brichart has assumed various professional responsibilities in France as President of the French federation of milk producers (FNPL) and the French interbranch dairy organisation (CNIEL). He joined Copa as part of the Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products, which he chaired for 6 years. His position as Vice-President of Copa since 2015 is the result of his continued involvement in European matters within the FNSEA (National Federation of Farmers' Unions, France), where he is the first Vice-President. Within the Copa Presidency, Henri Brichart is in charge of the CAP.



Pierre Bascou

Pierre Bascou is the Director for Sustainability and Income Support within the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. From 2010 to 2014, he was the Head of the Unit for Agricultural Policy Analysis and Perspectives. From 2003 until 2009, he headed up the Unit in charge of the economic analysis of EU agriculture for the conception, the management and the evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy. He obtained his PhD in Agricultural Economics from Imperial College London in 1989 and his agronomy engineering degree from ESA Toulouse in 1986.



Andreas Beckmann

As Managing Director of the WWF-International Danube-Carpathian Programme (www.panda.org/dcpo), Andreas Beckmann is responsible for leading and coordinating the global conservation organisation's work across ten countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe, including Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine. He has held various positions at WWF, including WWF European coordinator for EU enlargement, Natura 2000 and the related use of EU funding instruments, as well as coordinator for the environmental partnership foundations. A US and German citizen, Andreas has degrees in Management (MBA in Circular Economy from Bradford University), History (MA and PhD from Stanford University) as well as History, Politics and International Relations (BA with High Honours from Swarthmore College).



Mindaugas Maciulevičius

Mindaugas Maciulevičius is a Vice-President of Cogeca. He is one of the founding members of the agricultural cooperative "Lietuviško ūkio kokybė" for which he has been the Director and a board member since 2009. Since 2010, he has also been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Appointed by the Chamber of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, he represents the interests of farmers and rural communities in Lithuania. Since 2012, he has been a member of the EESC Bureau. He is currently Vice-President of Group III, responsible for agriculture, agricultural cooperatives and rural communities. In addition to this, he is Vice-President of the Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives, "Kooperacijos Kelias".



Martin Merrild

Martin Merrild is a Vice-President of Copa. Martin is the son of a farmer and has a diploma in agricultural economics, agricultural management and specialised business studies. He started as an independent farmer in 1982 and runs "Feldborg" farm in the town of Kvium in Western Jutland. On his 140 hectare farm, Mr Merrild has 2,200 breeding mink and approximately 600,000 broilers. He has held various positions in agricultural organisations including the position of Chairman of the Danish Association of Poultry Producers (1994-2013). Martin Merrild was elected President of the Danish Agriculture and Food Council in November 2012 and was President of Copa from 2015 to 2017. He also served as Deputy Mayor of Ringkjøbing County (2002- 2007) and Mayor of Struer (2006-2009).



María Angeles Benítez Salas

Ms María de los Ángeles Benítez Salas has worked as Deputy Director General in DG AGRI since 16th March 2016. She is in charge of three directorates which together are responsible for international affairs, quality, research and innovation, outreach, strategy, simplification and policy analysis.

A Spanish national, Ms Benítez Salas joined the European Commission in 1986 as a Member of Commissioner Abel Matutes' cabinet, responsible for SME policy, and subsequently external relations. After a stint at the EU Delegation in Buenos Aires, she first became Head of Unit in 1998 and was a Director in DG AGRI between 2006 and 2013. Her previous position was Deputy Head of the European Political Strategy Centre, the European Commission's in-house think tank.



Minette Batters

Minette is the current President of the National Farmers Union England and Wales. Minette is also a Trustee of Farm Africa. She runs a tenanted family farm in Wiltshire. The mixed farming business includes a herd of 100 continental cross sucklers, a small herd of pedigree Herefords as well as sheep and arable crops. Her farm is diversified in the sense that she has converted a 17th century barn into a wedding and corporate events venue, and she has horse liverys. Minette co-founded the campaigning initiatives 'Ladies in Beef' and the 'Great British Beef Week'. She has been an NFU member from grassroots through to County Chairman; she served as Wiltshire's Council delegate as well as the Regional Board Chairman for the South West. Minette has also been a member of the NFU Governance Board and served as NFU Deputy President for four years from 2014 to 2018.



Christian Pèes

Mr Christian Pèes is a farmer in the French department of Pyrénées-Atlantiques and has been President of the cooperative group Euralis since September 2000. The cooperative brings together 12,000 farmers and employs 5,100 members of staff, generating a turnover of 1.5 billion euros. Mr Pèes is also Vice-President of Coop de France and President of Coop de France's grain trades department. Coop de France is the united representation of French agricultural, agri-food, agro-industrial and forestry cooperatives. Mr Pèes is very committed at European level. He was President of Cogeca from 2012 to 2015 and is currently the Coordinator of the Cogeca Presidency's Business Fora. As a staunch defender of the cooperative model, he is convinced of its relevance in meeting current and future societal challenges.



Jannes Maes

Jannes Maes is the current President of CEJA, the organisation representing young farmers in Europe. He grew up on a Flemish farm (dairy cattle, sheep and arable crops) in Aalter, in the east of Flanders, and has been passionate about agriculture and horticulture since his childhood. He focused on agriculture during his secondary education and later obtained a Bachelor's degree in agriculture. Today, he works with his family on their dairy farm, cooperating with other farmers in collecting and processing their milk. Jannes previously served as Vice-President of CEJA, and prior to that as the international representative of Groene Kring, the Flemish young farmers' organisation, when he began to attend CEJA meetings.



Heinrich Schaller

Dr Heinrich Schaller has been Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Management Board of the Upper Austrian bank Raiffeisenlandesbank Oberösterreich (RLB OÖ) since the end of March 2012. He recently announced the RLB OÖ's outstanding results: an annual consolidated net profit before tax of 533.8 million euros in 2017. In addition, in recent years, the bank has succeeded in strengthening its capital base significantly. This is the foundation for the RLB OÖ's strong customer focus and reliability in all customer segments.

Schaller studied law and has worked in banking and finance since 1987. Among other things, he was head of the Vienna Stock Exchange from 2006 to 2012.

With the sponsorship of :





**Friday,
12th October**

Technical visits

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Organised by la LKÖ and ÖRV



Technical visits

TECHNICAL VISIT A

DIVERSIFICATION – NEW INCOME POSSIBILITIES ON FARMS

Direct marketing, farm tourism and educational programs are just some examples for additional income possibilities on farms. We will visit two agricultural holdings, which developed their own business model to stay fully employed on their own holdings.

Background information about the educational and administrative support by the Agricultural Chamber of Upper Austria will be supplied by Chamber employees attending the visit.

TECHNICAL VISIT B

PORK PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Animal welfare is a main topic for the Austrian agriculture, especially in the pork sector. A recently finished project explored new housing systems for breeding sows to minimize the confinement of sows as well as the mortality of piglets. Seeing this new housing system in action will be the first topic of the visit.

The second station will be the agricultural machinery producer Pöttinger in Grieskirchen. Pöttinger is one of Europe's leading companies in grassland, tillage and seed drill technology.

TECHNICAL VISIT C

DAIRY AND BEEF PRODUCTION

Dairy and beef production is the leading branch of Austrian agriculture. The Austrian dairy producers need highly specialized strategies to compete with much bigger farming holdings on the common European market.

By visiting two agricultural holdings with different management strategies, we will explore the whole spectrum of Austrian dairy production and the important role of education and constant enhancement of farming techniques.

The visits will include lunch and have a cost of 35€/person.

Additional and more detailed information will be provided at a later stage.

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european farmers

european agri-cooperatives

Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 23 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 66 member organisations from the EU member states. Together, they are one of the biggest and most active lobbying organisations in Brussels.

www.copa-cogeca.eu



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