



INVITATION to the

COPA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

10th December 2014 • 9:30 to 13:00

The current situation of women in rural areas: position on the farm, working conditions – social security and access to services

The Copa Women's Committee is holding a round table at Copa-Cogeca on 10th December 2014, which will specifically focus on:

- **The position** of women on the farm - **Statistics** on gender in family farming.
- Establishment or improving sufficient **infrastructure and establishments** in small villages (nurseries, schools, healthcare, nursing and care homes, etc.), access to services.
- **Ownership** of the land and of the farm.
- **Female entrepreneurship** and opportunities for support from **EU-funds**.



According to the statistics, 30% of farms in the European Union are managed by women. However, the majority of farms today are still family enterprises run by a couple, where the husband traditionally fulfils the dual role of the farm holder and manager.

The status of the woman is often that of a spouse, who assists her husband.

Women who are not farmers and work towards other targets, such as diversification in rural areas, have different problems to tackle and it is therefore essential to distinguish and address these separately.

Although the contribution rural women make to agriculture, livestock production and diversification is well known, they sometimes have little or no access to production inputs to

enhance their economic participation in these areas.

It is therefore necessary to strengthen the role of women in agriculture and in rural areas, both in practical and legal terms, by facilitating their access to services and their position on the farm.

The round table will bring together women farmers from the EU Member States, with their experiences and national best practices, and representatives from the EU Institutions.

The main purpose will be to exchange good practices and analyse the opportunities at EU level to provide recommendations and concrete incentives.

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Programme

- 09:30 – 09:45 **Opening speech** by the Women’s Committee Chairperson, Willemien Koning
- 09:45 - 10:00 **Setting the scene**
The current situation of women in rural areas.
Mariya Gabriel MEP, European Parliament – Agriculture Committee (COM AGRI).
Vice-President of the EPP Group – Head of the Bulgarian EPP Delegation
- 10:00 - 11:00 **Panel Debate: *Increasing the entrepreneurship of women and opportunities for funding in the second pillar and other EU-funds.***
- *Report on progress on equality between women and men.*
Overview of the main EU policy and legal developments in gender equality in recent years.
Muriel Bissières, Gender Equality Unit, DG Justice.
 - *Gender equality in the 2014-2020 programming period. ESI Funds: 2014-2020.*
Maeva Roulette, ESF Policy and Legislation Unit, DG employment.
 - *Women in agriculture and rural areas: statistical update.*
Teresa Lopez-Garcia-Usach, Consistency of rural development, DG Agriculture.
- Debate with participants.
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15- 11:30 **Case studies. The contribution of women farmers to life in rural areas.**
The use of human capital on family farms.
Dr Ilse Matser, lecturer in Family Business, University of Windesheim, Netherlands.
- 11:30 - 12:15 **Best practices from Member States**
- Ireland
 - Spain
 - Austria
 - Italy
- 12:15 – 12:30 Debate
- 12:30 – 12:40 **Conclusions** of the workshop and key messages by Willemien Koning, Women’s Committee Chairperson