

AQA(12)5082:1

Brussels, 29 June 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN AGRICULTURE (AQA) HELD 22 MARCH 2012

PRESENT: DE CARNE, BENVENUTI, COPPOLA, MATOUSEK, NOTTEBEARE, KIS, GINEBRE, CLARKE, MARTIN, VAN OORSCHOT, JOCHUM, WIERZBICKI, CEDERLUND, MATEOS, CORBALAN, BASEN, CADORSO, SISINNI, SYVANIEMI, FISCHER, LEE, BASTO, NIZA RIBEIRO, SCIBERRAS.

SECRETARIAT: DERRIEN

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Olivier DE CARNE. The members of the Working Party adopted the agenda [[AQA\(12\)1490 \(rev.1\)](#)] and the minutes from the previous meeting dated to 15 December 2011 [[AQA\(12\)2214 \(rev.1\)](#)].

1. Future of the CAP:

a. Firstly, the Secretariat briefly introduced the main proposals included in the Copa-Cogeca position paper drafted in reaction to the European Commission's legislative proposals on the future of the CAP after 2013 (see [[PAC\(11\)7038 \(rev.10\)](#)]).

b. then, a discussion took place on the "AQA WP contribution on the future of the CAP" with respect to agricultural quality policy related questions ([[AQA\(11\)9787 \(rev.4\)](#)]). As far as the definition of the concept of "quality" is concerned, several members emphasized the need for ensuring a differentiation between mandatory legislation (examples: production standards regarding animal welfare, environment, etc ...) standards going beyond EU binding legislation.

Several participants welcomed the fact that financial supported can be granted to voluntary quality systems as proposed in the proposal for Regulation on Rural development (see art.17 of the proposed text).

Several participants suggested that the duration of the support measures laid down in article 17 should go beyond 5 years: it was notably proposed to extend it to 7 years. A few organizations proposed extend this period even further.

A majority of participants were in support of the proposal for granting funds proposed under article 17 to producer groups or producer organisations which are engaged in quality related initiatives.

A number of members agreed that the maximum permitted amount should remain 3000 Euros. Other organisations felt that this maximum amount should be increased up to 5000 Euros. One participant proposed to widen the scope of the measures proposed under article 36 ("cooperation measures") in order to include EU quality schemes (PDOs and PGIs). Finally the majority of the participants agreed on widening the scope of the advisory services system in order to help farmers who are engaged in quality related initiatives, including the

participation in short supply chains, local sales and/or direct sales (e.g. implementation of hygiene requirements for farmers processing on the farm).

2. « EU Quality Package»:

a. Information on the main conclusions of the Working Group “product from my farm” (10 November 2011) and possible next steps [AQA(12)1684 (rev.2)].

A discussion takes place on the basis of the Working paper prepared by the Commission and outlining the discussions that were held within the working group "*produced on my farm.*" Several participants stressed the fact that the scope of the labeling system as proposed by the Commission should be better defined in order to focus on production activities taking place on the farm and on activities over which the farmer keeps control. A number of members also highlighted the fact that the system must be flexible enough in order include producer organizations or producer groups. The majority of the participants were rather favoring the option of establishing an optional quality term rather than creating a logo

b. State of play of discussions on the Quality Package [AQA(12)1279 (rev.1)]

The Secretariat informed the participants of the fact that the discussions on the legislative proposal amending Regulation 1234/2007 on marketing standards remain blocked due to the rejection by the Member States of COM proposals, in particular when it comes to the proposal of establishment of a horizontal basis. A possible "way forward» on this issue may consist in transferring the dossier into the “EU CAP package”. The discussions concerning the other legislative proposal included in the “EU quality package” (i.e. the legislative proposal on agricultural schemes) would be at a more “advanced stage in the legislative process. The “confrontation” between member States and EU MEPs on the issue of management of production for PDOs and PGIs continues. In order to reach a compromise at the Council, MEPs would propose to limit the scope of the exemption to products which characterized by a “long maturation process (e.g. for ham)

3. information points :

The Secretariat informed the participants of the main provisions concerning the compulsory indication of origin as provided for in Regulation No 1169/2011 on food information to consumers.

The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting.
