

FL(12)2559:1

Brussels, 30th March 2012

Original: French

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON 27TH MARCH 2012**

PRESENT: VAN ES, FILHUE, ONFROY, VOOIJS, APPELTANS, VANOIRBEEK, VLOUTIS, DIOGO, FERREIRA, BASTO, FARRELL, ANFLO, CAMPBELL-GIBBONS, LINDE, GAILITE, CIRONKIENE, FODOR, GREIMEL, HOFFMANN, GONGORA, CORRALES CIGANDA, CORBALAN, RONCOLINI, VITA, BAZZANA, DE LEO, CECCHINI, LIPPERT, NÖTHEN, WUTZ, FAULI

GUESTS: FERNANDEZ, VAN DER STAPPEN, PANICHI, MARTEAU, WALLEZ

SECRETARIAT: DEJONCKHEERE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The meeting was chaired by Mr Hans VAN ES and began with the adoption the agenda [FL(12)1674] and the minutes from the previous meeting [FL(12)2043:2].

EU and Morocco

The EC's services had made the agreement part of the EU's neighbourhood policy. It could enter into force at the beginning of July 2012. The EP's motion was not legally binding for the EC.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2012-0047&language=EN>

The EC had proposed bringing the entry price system into line with general customs legislation measures after 2013 in order to limit speculation by importers on customs values, estimated at 15% of import consignments. The entry price system applied to 16 fresh fruits and vegetables and must continue to comply with WTO rules. Pending the implementation of the new CAP, the EC expected to present proposals to the Management Committee in mid May with the aim of improving the traceability of consignments between customs controls and sale. Traceability would lead to more bureaucracy, and the EC would have to ensure that the Member States accepted this. DG AGRI would need to hold discussions with other EC services and the Member States. A consultation with the WTO on the TBT agreement would probably be necessary. DG AGRI was not able to provide any further details on the timetable. DG TAXUD confirmed that it was impossible to exceed quotas thanks to customs surveillance mechanisms, unless there was a false declaration of the origin of a product, something for which the Member States were responsible for carrying out controls. The EC had monitored 18 Member States and drawn up guidelines.

Copa-Cogeca highlighted the issues raised in the EP motion, differing production standards in the EU and Morocco, and expressed its satisfaction with the response of the EC representatives.

CAP post 2013

- a. Copa-Cogeca's general reaction: The Secretariat presented the general reaction (PAC(12)1629). It informed delegates that the EP had indicated that it would not make any decisions on the CAP post 2013 until the EU had confirmed the financial perspective 2014-2020. The list of rapporteurs was available on Agri Info. The draft reports on the various regulations were expected mid 2012. During the Council of Agriculture Ministers, the Commissioner had announced that the reform of rules applying to the

fruit and vegetable sector would be brought forward, with proposals to be presented in May 2013.

- b. Interbranch Organisations: CCAE presented the situation in Spain. VBT commented that associations of POs were better than interbranch organisations because they also addressed trade issues. A Spanish organisation pointed out that the extension of rules must be monitored by the government in order for it to work.
- c. Reaction of the WP/FV to proposals for the CAP post 2013 – document FL(12)2213 would be approved by written procedure. Confcooperative asked to highlight the need to maintain a flexible budget for support for FVPOs as pre-recognised POs were going to become recognised POs.

Organic Vegetable Production

Mr Gregor Hoffmann (LK) presented a new organic vegetable production method being used in Austria. This method involved producing vegetables on a compost substrate in pots. He requested the Working Party's support in raising awareness of this innovative production method as a form of organic farming.

Advisory Group

Documents would be available on Agri Info.

Any other business

- Profel was consulting Copa-Cogeca regarding the eligibility of sweetcorn for the FVPO support regime. This sector involved 3000 farmers and 70,000 ha. Production was 300,000 tonnes tinned semi-raw and 70,000 tonnes frozen. Hungary was in favour. Spain wanted chestnuts to be eligible.
- E.Coli crisis: update of Copa-Cogeca's figures at the request of DG SANCO (written procedure).
- Next Advisory Group: (provisional date) 20th June 2012.
