

GOL(12)4321

Brussels, 8th June 2012

Original: French

Minutes from the meeting of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Oilseeds and Protein Crops on 29th March 2012

Present:

Secretariat: Francesca Bignami, Dominique Dejonckheere, Arnaud Petit

Participants : Dusser, Nardone, Matousek, Jirovec, Cinitis, Montpellier, Cartryse, Delany, Strindberg, Leidwein, Schulman, Seedler, Arens, Backhouse, Gagen, Watts, Moir, Todorova, Läänements, Basto, Gallardo, Conway, Majauskas, Kicinski, Grabinski

Summary and conclusions

- 1- The Working Party, chaired by Mr Tubery, adopted the agenda CER(12)1370.
- 2- No comments were made on the minutes from the meeting held on 8th December 2011 GOL(12)1417 and so they were adopted.

- 3- **Forecasts for the 2012-2013 marketing year**

A round table discussion indicated a relative decrease in the amount of rapeseed sown at European level. Weather conditions were very difficult in Spain and Portugal, where drought had considerably reduced the sown surface area and there was no possibility for subsequent sowing. Sunflower seed was proving more resistant to the drought. The French, German, Bulgarian and Polish delegations highlighted the appearance of frost damage on rapeseed crops. The lost surface area would not be re-sown with oilseed crops. Other delegations stated that their general crop situation was positive. Oilseed production was set to fall to a minimum of 18 million tonnes in 2012. Regarding protein crops, a decrease in acreage had been registered in Germany and was continuing in the UK.

The Chairman, Mr Tubery, suggested writing to the Commissioner for Agriculture to notify him of frost damage and the need for flexibility when implementing CAP measures.

- 4- **Market situation and prospects for 2011/2012**

The French delegation informed members of the significant decrease in South-American soya production (-16 million tonnes). Canada and Australia had increased their production of rapeseed. Canola had therefore become the main crop grown in Canada thanks to developments in breeding techniques.

Regarding soya production in the United States, sowing forecasts had been downgraded due to high demand for maize. Purchases of soya seeds were also decreasing.

The UK and Finnish delegations underpinned the necessity for research into oilseed and protein crop production. The Secretariat announced that the next European call for tenders for research was to include a research programme on protein crops, excluding soya.

The Chairman, Mr Tubery, suggested closely following the research dossier and supporting all EU initiatives. The Secretariat would follow this up and organise a telephone conference if necessary.

5- **State of play on ILUC**

The Secretariat informed members about debates within the European Commission and Copa-Cogeca's positions. The German delegation called for a high level of political pressure to be maintained, the French delegation underpinned the necessity to begin thinking about room for manoeuvre. The UK delegation stressed that there must not be any competition between crops because of sustainability issues.

The Chairman, Mr Tubery, suggested increasing communication about the rejection of ILUC factors and cooperating with other European organisations concerned, in order to reach a joint position.

6- **Glucosinolates**

The Secretariat reminded members of the 2012 deadline for selection criteria for varieties of rapeseed below 18µmol/gr. Members highlighted that cooperation was not at its best with seed companies about information on the glucosinolate levels of marketed varieties.

7- **A.O.B.**

The Chairman, Mr Tubery, closed the meeting and informed members that the next meeting would take place on 28th June.