

**Draft Minutes of the Advisory Group on Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein Crops  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Warning: please note that this document has not yet been reviewed by the  
Commission officials**

**1. Agenda**

The meeting was moderated by Mr Henning EHLERS, Chairman of the Advisory Group. The agenda was approved.

**2. Minutes**

The Advisory Group approved the draft minutes.

**3. Market situation**

Cereals: There had been signs of convergence between data on wheat prices and the stock markets, although much less of late. There was a continued deficit for maize and once again a decrease in global end-of-year stocks for all cereals combined. Wheat stocks were higher than for the past 4 years, reaching 210mt. The wheat export price had been influenced by the in Ukraine an Russia capacity exports. The pace of EU exports was steady, albeit slower than in recent years, in particular in France, Germany and Romania. Algeria had absorbed 41%. Import trends had surpassed the last five years but were now slowing. Durum wheat stocks had dropped to a 4-year low, with Canada registering 500,000t less for 2011. Prices were holding strong. Barley stocks were falling, reaching their lowest levels for the past five years owing to reduced production. The impact of extreme climatic conditions in EU would not affect significantly the level of the EU production.

Oilseeds: Soya consumption was above production with recent cuts to US estimates.. In Europe, surface area had increase by 3.7% and production by 1.2% in 2011; however the protein crop surface area and production fell by almost 1%. Rapeseed production was stable across the entire EU, despite extremes in certain MSs. Regarding protein crops, production of peas was falling.

A representative of the farm sector highlighted that EU forecast production in 2012 would not exceed in 2011 and expressed concern about the impact of drought in south europe which not give anymore change to replant. Relating to the frost kill, the magnitude of the damage is emerging only now and the capacity to replant would not match the market demand due to the lack of commercialized seed. A representative of the industry sector underpinned the critical situation in the south of Europe and the negative impact to the livestock sector. The representative of the trade sector pinpoint the risk of unbalance situation on cereals markets if the farmers are not in position to respond to the market demand.

**4. CAP reform: presentation of impact assessment**

A representative of the Commission presented the methodology, the definition of the greening measures and the potential impact on the cereals production (-8%).

The farmers' representatives underpinned the imbalance approach between the environmental concerns and the impact on productivity of crop farms, the degree of uncertainty of the impact assessment as there is no data on the elements of the landscape, the impossibility to apply a strict model at European level to all the diversity of situation in Europe.

## **5. Information on diabrotica dossier**

The chairman informed the members the representative of DG Sanco cannot attend the meeting. He suggested a background note should be send to the participants.

## **6. GMO in food: technical solution**

A Commission representative informed the Advisory Group about the implementation of a technical solution for feed. The extension of the scope to food should be further debated between the Member states. Dg Sanco services are working on a draft proposal and should be put on the table around the summer break.

The trade representative highlighted the need to go forward as some business may be impacted by the lack of a legal basis on the way to develop an harmonized control at the EU border.

## **7. Fertilisant: anti-dumping measures**

A Commission representative informed the members that the dg trade cannot express a position on this dossier as there was a procedure running. A background note has been put on the dossier of the participants

## **8. G20: report on the last meeting of AMIS**

A Commission representative informed the members on the improvement of the system. All countries participating were in position to present reliable data, including the major players of the cereals world market.

Trade representative support the AMIS initiative and call for a contribution of the private sector. The improvement of information on stock by country and their accessibility should be also analysed by the AMIS experts group.

## **9. any other business**

The next meeting would be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

### *Disclaimer*

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