

TO:	The Members of the COPA-COGECA Working Party on Quality Assurance in Agriculture The National Offices
FROM:	Christophe DERRIEN, 0032-2872724, christophe.derrien@copa-cogeca.eu
DATE:	30/03/2012

“Re: Information concerning the High level conference "local agriculture and short food supply chains" on 20 April 2012 and modalities of registration

Dear all,

The Secretariat would like to inform you that the European Commission is organizing a conference entitled "local agriculture and short food supply chains - preparing for CAP 2020" taking place **on Friday 20 April 2012**: you will find attached the provisional program of the conference.

This event, which is a joint initiative of the European Commissioners Dacian CIOLOS and John DALLI, aims at discussing “ways” to mobilise and value the economic and environmental potential of local agriculture and short food supply chains. Both Commissioners as well as the President of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, Mr. Mette GJERSKOV will be present.

The conference, after an initial plenary part will break down into 3 parallel workshops:

- Workshop A entitled “*towards an appropriate policy framework*” will be dedicated to EU policy instruments in favor of local and direct sales networks;
- Workshop B entitled “*facilitating market access for local farmers*” will examine the different possible market channels for local farming/direct sales and short supply chains initiatives
- Workshop C will look at “*how to better use hygiene and food safety regulatory framework for small food producers*”

Distribution of seats

Copa-Cogeca is allocated 30 “reimbursed” seats which should be distributed to our **national** experts, at is follows :

- 6 for the experts that represented Copa-Cogeca in the Working Group product “from my farm” (sub group of the Advisory Group “Quality of production in Agricultural”)
- 12 experts selected from the Copa-Cogeca delegation usually participating in the Advisory Group “Quality of production in Agricultural”

- The remaining seats should be allocated to members of the Working Party on “Assurance Quality in Agriculture” as well other experts emerging from relevant Working Parties interested in these issues.

Please note that **only one seat per organisation** will be allocated and that **priority will be given to national experts**: only in case we cannot fulfill the quota fixed by the European Commission, the remaining seats could be allocated to Brussels based representatives.

Preparatory meeting on 19 April

The Secretariat intends to organize a preparatory meeting the day before the conference (Wednesday 19th April, from 16h30 until 18h30). This meeting which will be held in English (no translation will be provided) will aim at coordinating our actions and messages before the conference. The Secretariat will come back to you with further details on this meeting very soon.

How to register to the conference?

In order to register for this conference, **the Secretariat would kindly invite you to send participation form provided below to the Secretariat** (by replying to this email address and putting in copy Stephanie Berry, Stephanie.Berry@copa-cogeca.eu) **no later than Wednesday 4 April at 12:00h.**

Please note that only duly and fully completed participation forms will be accepted (all this information is requested by the Conference organizers).

Participation forms received after the deadline above mentioned will not be accepted either.

Should you have any question concerning this conference, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Christophe Derrien

PARTICIPATION FORM

PLEASE SEND BACK NO LATER THAN **04/04/2012 12:00**

BY EMAIL: CHRISTOPHE.DERRIEN@COPA-COGECA.EU

COPY TO: STEPHANIE.BERRY@COPA-COGECA.EU

AND/OR BY FAX: 00. 32. 22. 87. 27. 00

**European Commission
Conference
“Local agriculture and short food supply chains”**

Brussels, 20 April 2012

FULL NAME:

ORGANISATION:

COUNTRY:

FULL ADDRESS:

.....

EMAIL:

PHONE NUMBER:

**WORKSHOPS
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND**

Workshop A - Towards an appropriate CAP support mechanism?

Workshop B - Facilitating market access to small farmers ?

Workshop C - A better use of the hygiene and food safety
regulatory framework for small food producers