

EN(12)4996:1

**DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA
WORKING PARTY ON ENVIRONMENT
ON 18TH JUNE 2012**

Present: BULHAO MARTINS, DECKER, PINGEN, D'ARMAILLE, POMMARET, DECOCK, MATOUSEK, RIBISCH, TOFTDAHL, VERSET, KICINSKI, ULRICH, HEIJMANS, KRUKLITE, DAVIES, CHAUVELLE, TOBIAS, MARTIN, BASTO, GODINHO, MIRA, EKSVARD, FERNANDEZ, VALERO, PIETOLA, , WHYTE, KULVIK, SAGARNA , RYAN, KINGSTON

Secretariat: GOUVEIA, MATTHEWS, RUNGE, ZOLLA

1. The **minutes** from the previous meeting (EN(12)6994) were adopted. Mr Bulhao will be included in the list of participants.
2. The **agenda** (EN(12)3322) was adopted after adding 3 points under AOB presented by LRF (plant breeding – biotechnology, uncertainty aspect of data used for policy support, film on Baltic Deal) and the announcement of the upcoming elections of advisory group as final AOB point.
3. **The draft working programme** (EN(12)4225) was presented by the chair. Ms Pietola (MTK) suggested adding soil protection under point 3; Ms Pommaret (FNSEA) requested to look for alternative figure to illustrate the importance of the agri-food sector in the introductory paragraph. Several members indicated their satisfaction about having a working programme for the coming 1 ½ years.

→ The Secretariat asked for contributions from the WP on Environment in view of the work within the EIPs (agriculture + water) and for a position paper on research and innovation to be prepared under the lead of the WP on Research and Innovation.

4. As **preparation of the Advisory Group** (AG) a number of different topics have been addressed.
 - 4.1 The exchange of views on the **environmental aspects in the legislative proposals for future CAP** took place with participation of Ms Matthews. She informed about the timing of the ongoing discussion at EP, Council level and focused on 3 issues of particular interest:
 - The link of Rural Development (RD) and Cohesion Policy and the role of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) in order to use other funds than RD for environment protection.
 - The proposal in the EP report to double the transfer of funds from pillar 1 to pillar 2, to ring fence 30% of RD funds exclusively for agri-environment-climate measures (AECM), organic and Natura 2000 payments and to earmark the use of unspent greening money for AECM.
 - The proposals in the Commission's concept paper and the EP report to accept AECMs that are "equivalent" to mandatory greening instead of the proposed fixed measures, but without extension to green growth measures and without choice for farmers.Participants were briefly informed about the cross-compliance amendments and were urged to stay vigilant even if most proposed amendments are positive.

In addition to changes proposed in the EP report regarding permanent grassland, where the inclusion of the term of historic pasture is of concern, the document on permanent pasture rules by EFNCP (EN(12)3977) was briefly presented by the Secretariat.

→ **Comments from member organizations will feed into Copa-Cogeca work on amendments in the upcoming weeks.**

Ms Zolla from the Secretariat informed about the **work within Geopa-Copa on jobs**. She announced a seminar to take place during the Copa-Cogeca congress in which the future CAP will be addressed under the angle of employment. She informed that a project proposal with focus on EU figures on employment and sharing of best practice examples on job creation in the agro-food sector has been submitted.

4.2 **Water** was addressed under various sub-points as it would be an important agenda point of the AG.

4.2.1 The Secretariat made a **debriefing on Copa-Cogeca's participation to the Green Week** based on a presentation (EN(12)4692) and thanked the member organizations for their engagement.

→ **The Secretariat informed that the numerous initiatives on water management collected from the member organizations will feed into a 2 page flyer to be ready for autumn.**

4.2.2 Member organizations have been asked to answer a **questionnaire on irrigation/ water storage, water saving and drinking water protection** (EN(12)4118); a synthesis of the 11 responses received (FR(2), PT (2), ES, DK, SE, EE, UK, IT, BG) was presented by the Secretariat.

→ **The answers to the questionnaire will be made available to all members and will serve as input for future work, in particular as regards the Blueprint.**

4.2.3 The Secretariat informed about the **upcoming publication of the Blueprint in November 2012** and the attention that is expected to be given to agriculture in this communication.

4.2.4 Within the CIS-WFD Expert group on water and agriculture a subgroup has been created, the River Basin Network (RBN), that is elaborating **factsheets of 9 selected measures**.

→ **Members were asked to check them (EN(12)4229), in particular as regards the assessments of the measures prepared for different River Basins.**

A short film on the Baltic Deal project was shown (<http://www.balticdeal.eu/news/watch-the-baltic-deal-movie/>).

4.3 The Secretariat gave an **update on the activities related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)** in the agro-food sector (EN(12)4691). The task force Food SCP RT is following the work on environmental sustainability and via this channel interested experts can get involved into the discussions. Mr Gouveia informed that SCP was addressed within the last meeting of the HLF on better functioning of the food supply chain. He announced the communication on sustainable food (publication in 2013) and reminded the Copa-Cogeca position on food wastage.

→ **Members were asked to nominate experts for the task force on food wastage that will start its work and will be under the responsibility of the WP on foodstuffs.**

4.4 In order to inform about the **ongoing discussions on climate policy at international level**, Mr Toftdahl, DAFC, gave a presentation (EN(12)4688) and provided info on the timetable, the role of agriculture within the UNFCCC negotiations (mitigation and adaptation), the elaboration of a specific work programme. Several members addressed LULUCF under this point.

→ Members were informed about the possibility to contribute to the draft Copa-Cogeca reaction on the EC proposal for LULUCF that has been circulated ahead to the WP (EN(12)3701).

4.5 Mr Decker, DBV, informed about recent **activities of the Commission on soil**, including a debriefing of the soil conference that took place in May 2012, the soil sealing publication complemented by info on activities at national level. The Secretariat informed about the Commissions work on “no net loss”, the enforcement of soil protection in the CAP proposal (protection of carbon rich soils) and the inclusion of soil / land use in the agenda of the 7th Environmental Action Plan.

→ An update of the Copa-Cogeca position was requested highlighting that protection of agricultural soils against sealing is a priority, but that it has to be tackled at national level.

5. Mr Gouveia informed about the ongoing work within the **United Nations Conference Rio+20**. Ms Andúgar attended the event to defend the interests of the EU farming sector, together with representatives from member organizations (DAFC, DBV, LRF, NFU, UPA, CEJA), within a broader World Farmers Organisation delegation.

6. AOB

The chair informed that Mr Petit from the Secretariat will give an update on plant breeding and biotechnology with focus on increased climate resilience of new varieties. LRF suggested preparing a Copa-Cogeca letter to be sent to the Commission on uncertainty of data and the use of such data using as examples the work on GHG emissions in the livestock sector and on iLUC.