

LP(12)5763:1

MINUTES OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS ON 09.07.2012

PRESENT: Raymond, Schlüter, Neu, Schmidt, Schmidt, Buttigieg, Matousek, Kuczera, Stefanikova, Gkouliaditi, Podmiljšak, Dreijere, Praunauskas, Varga, Zbigniew, Radzio, Saron, Karner, Gotting, Carlberg, Manninen, Pickering, Davies, Mulvihill, Flanagan, Andreassen-Hoyer, Addison, Kilpelainen, Isomaa, Corrales, Versen, Basto, Corbalan, Fernández, Santalla, Sisinni, Mezzogori, Abrate, De Meo, Pofferi, Quadro, Osinga, Romijn, Roquefeuil, Loyer, Herve, Kiersey, Lascurettes, Thurner

SECRETARIAT: Benites, Di Rubbo, Runge, Gyorffy

- **Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products**

Mr Mansel Raymond (NFU-UK) was elected Chairman of the Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products for two-year mandate. Mr Tommaso Mario Abrate (Confcooperative-IT) was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products. Mr Sami Kilpelainen (MTK-FI) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products.

- **Election of the Copa-Cogeca Vice-chair of the Advisory Group on Milk**

Mr Tommaso Mario Abrate (Confcooperative-IT) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Group on Milk.

- **Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of the last Working Party on Milk (5.03.2012)**

Cooperative Union of Slovenia requested an AOB point on the marketing of compound feed.

The minutes of the last Working Party on Milk and Dairy Products were approved by the group.

The Chairman reminded about the importance of the Copa-Cogeca statistics on milk production and prices and underlined that it will no longer be put on Agri-Info in order to get better feedback.

- **Market situation, prospects and management**

All the delegations underlined that prices are lower compared with 2011 and with May 2012. Even if the situation is stable in some countries, further decreases are expected (IE, AT, NL). Some delegations mentioned that the production costs exceed the price received for milk (ES, IT, SK).

Milk prices: UK 0.30€/kg (Northern Ireland – 0.25,9€/kg), DE – in June: 0.30,3€/kg, stable, DK – 0.31,8€/kg, IE – 0.28,5€/kg, FR – unofficial figure for June 0.31-0.32€/kg, FI – 0.36,8€/kg, AT – 0.31€/kg, ES – unofficial figure for June: 0.28-0.29 €/kg, SK – 0.28.8€/kg, NL – 0.30€/kg, PT – 0.30,5€/kg, CZ – 0.29,5€/kg, EL – 0.32€/kg, LT – 0.33-0.34€/kg.

Member States above quota: DE +1% (super-levy: 1.9 mil. €), IE + 1% (super-levy: 6 mil. €), AT +4%.

Some delegations underlined problems with the retail segment (IT, FR, ES) or distribution (PT).

Some delegations underlined the need to envisage measures for assuring a “soft-landing” of dairy quotas (FR, AT, NL).

Italy: although prices are at a higher level, Italy is suffering because of the earthquake. Cooperatives are struggling to help farmers who experience severe difficulties. Grateful of MS solidarity. France and Portugal: falling consumption, Finland: importance of Russian market. Poland: referred to their request in the AGRI Council (re-introduction of the export refunds as a temporary measure).

The Dutch representatives have made a presentation on their study on international milk price comparison for 2011 and prospects for 2012 [LP\(12\)5764 \(rev.1\)](#).

- **CAP: presentation of sectorial points in the COM AGRI draft reports**

The Secretariat presented the state of play in the Council and the main amendments in the draft EP reports [NPN\(12\)4290 \(rev.2\)](#), [PAC\(12\)5005 \(rev.1\)](#), [NPN\(12\)4099 \(rev.1\)](#), [NPN\(12\)4241 \(rev.2\)](#) and asked the opinion of the group on amendments 116-119, 302, 319, 391 of Michel Dantin's draft report.

Amendment 391 – measures to address severe imbalances on the milk and milk products market

Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, UK, Lithuania and Austria considered it problematic to accept such a proposal. Lithuania put the focus on promotion. Italy had some doubts about it. France and Finland could in principle support it with certain amendments and requested more flexibility from the group. Spain and Poland needed to analyse it more. Poland favours the quota system.

Ireland, UK had concerns about the provision on the supply of milk free of charge.

The Chairman concluded that there was a majority against and that the focus should be more on strengthening producer organisations, benefitting from proper support and intervention mechanisms.

Amendment 319 – inter-branch organizations

Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany requested that IBOs are voluntary as they were agreed in the milk package.

Amendments 116-119 - withdrawal from the market

Germany, Denmark, UK did not support this measure. Spain mentioned that this article corresponds to the position of Praesidia.

The Secretariat informed that it is important to know the opinion of this group even if this is a horizontal provision.

The Netherlands raised the issue of the ban on first ploughing.

- **Milk package**

The Secretariat presented the implementing and delegated act [LP\(12\)5063 \(rev.1\)](#) and the national delegations presented data on the implementation of the milk package in their countries [LP\(12\)5607 \(rev.1\)](#).

- **Action Plan on Animal Welfare – state of play**

Pasquale di Rubbo from the Secretariat presented this point [AHW\(12\)5512 \(rev.1\)](#). The idea of a framework was favoured by Copa-Cogeca (including possible guidelines on welfare of dairy cows). A task force on animal welfare has been created. An official letter will be sent to the Commission as follow-up of EFSA technical hearing.

UK: plan to use the animal-based welfare measures within the Red Tractor farm insurance. Against a dairy cows welfare directive. France: it is important to highlight the contradiction between the environmental aspects and the welfare aspects.

The Chairman concluded that a practical solution needs to be found, rather than having a mandatory legislation in place.

- **Research – information on research and innovation activities linked to the cattle sector**

The Dutch representatives referred to the seminar they organized in May (references in [LP\(12\)5134 \(rev.1\)](#)).

The Secretariat mentioned that a task force on research and innovation has been created and informed that the last call for tender under FP7 programme will be presented mid-July. The Secretariat asked the group for contributions in order to revise document “research and innovation in the dairy sector” [LP\(10\)1631 \(rev.1\)](#).

- **Promotion measures and information provision for agricultural products**

The Secretariat underlined that taking into account the calendar (sectorial approach is foreseen for next year), the group has to consider if the guidelines need to be adapted or not.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking the members and the interpreters.