

***DRAFT***

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING  
PARTY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN AGRICULTURE  
(AQA)  
HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

**PRESENT:** DE CARNÉ, TOZZI, COPPOLA, MARTIN, GINEBRE, CLOYE, DAMKJAER NIELSEN, CORBALÁN, MATEOS, MATAFOME, BASTO, SYVÄNIEMÍ, MONTAIGU, JOCHUM, NOTTEBAERE, STRAZDINA, BORBÁS, FERNÁNDEZ AGUSTÍN, ENDRODI, MATOUSEK, NIELSEN, BÖRGER, BORBÁS, SCALAZZI, BENVENUTI, LÓPEZ HERNÁNDEZ, CLARKE, SYVÄNIEMI, WIERZBICKI, MUÑOZ, KICINSKI, ERCOLANI, KÄRNER.

**SECRETARIAT:** VALLE, MATTHEWS, GOUVEIA

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

**Item 1 : Adoption of the Agenda**

→The Working Party, chaired by Mr Olivier DE CARNÉ, adopted the agenda [AQA\(13\)1159 \(rev.1\)](#) and the minutes from the previous meeting of the Working Party [AQA\(13\)207 \(rev.1\)](#). After this, elections took place which resulted in the re-election of the current Chairman, Mr Olivier de Carne, and Mr Christian Jochum as Vice-Chairman.

**Item 2: Initial debate on a Roadmap for the Working Party for the upcoming months**

→During this item of the agenda, the members looked at the issues which would be most important and most relevant for the Working Party over the coming months. These included European quality terms, optional quality terms (“Mountain Product”, “Product of Island Farming” and other optional quality terms), marketing standards, quality guarantee systems, standardisation and sustainability.

**Item 3 : Latest information on discussions in the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and on Animal and Plant Health**

→The Secretariat informed those present of the content of the last meeting of the Working Party on Food Losses/Food Waste within the Advisory Group on the Food Chain on 8th February. This included information on the latest research on ways to reduce losses/waste throughout the food chain and also addressed possible action at EU level. One of the main problems identified was the lack of a definition. The EC would continue to have bilateral meetings with stakeholders and the Working Party would meet again before summer.

#### **Item 4 : Preparation for the Advisory Group at the European Commission**

##### →3.1) Regulation 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs:

The Secretariat explained the current situation for this regulation which came into force at the beginning of this year after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. Articles 12(3) and 23(3) would come into force on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 without prejudice to products which had already been placed on the market before this date.

##### - Implementing the optional quality label “Mountain Product”:

The Secretariat informed those present about the recent publication of the report on the labelling of agricultural products of mountain farming undertaken by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies in Seville, focussing on the conclusions the report came to. The members of the Working Party expressed their opinions on problems which arose with existing regulations. It was important to pay attention to the possibility that the Commission might adopt a delegated act which would enable the use of raw materials or feed to come from outside of mountain areas, which would allow products to be processed outside of mountain areas of a geographical area which would have to be defined, and the definition of said geographical area.

##### - Product of Island Farming:

The EC had sought comments from experts on this term (Copa-Cogeca contribution: [AQA\(12\)9571 \(rev.1\)](#)); but at this point in time everything was provisional. What would the added value of this kind of label be? The main problem was the lack of definition of what an island is. The Group agreed that the following day it would ask the EC about deadlines, definitions and the general timeframe.

##### 3.2) Current situation on the debate on the proposals of the future CAP:

The Working Party heard from Shelby Matthews from the Secretariat, who provided an update on this agenda item. The Group was informed about the current CAP debate, and the importance of Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 negotiations. After the agreement reached by the European Council on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013, the next step was to see whether the European Parliament would accept the decision or not. (The Parliament could only pass or veto.)

At the same time, the CAP continued to be subject to debate in the Council, which wanted to reach an agreement by the end of March. It was also important to take into account that there would be elections the following year. In terms of the amendments linked to quality, the Secretariat presented a table which showed the results of the votes in COMAGRI on the rural development proposal. It was agreed that a more exhaustive analysis of the proposal on the Single CMO was required.

##### 3.3) Labelling of local agriculture and direct sales

Those present were informed that under Article 55 of Regulation No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs the Commission would present a report to the European Parliament and the European Council on the suitability of adopting a new labelling system, the aim of which would be to help producers to market their produce locally. Although the study would only be available in spring, during the meeting of the Advisory Group the following day there would be a presentation on the results of the study.

##### 3.4) Implementation of Regulation (EU) NO 1169/2011 from the European Parliament and Council on the provision of food information to consumers.

The Secretariat informed members of the latest developments regarding the implementation of this Regulation. Document [DA\(12\)9048 \(rev.4\)](#) had been approved on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The document contained a contribution from Copa-Cogeca on the application of new European standards on voluntary labelling of origin. The Secretariat was carrying out a consultation to respond to the consultant in charge of the study on mandatory labelling of country of origin and place of provenance of meat used as an ingredient.

#### **Item 5: AOB.**

→The Chair informed the members of the Working Party that during the next meeting of the Advisory Group elections would take place and that this point required further consideration. It was also suggested that a proposal be put forward to the Commission that it inform participants of the date of the meetings further in advance. The Working Party would continue to meet the day prior to the Advisory Group.  
The Chairman of the Working Party closed the meeting.

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