

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING
PARTY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN AGRICULTURE
(AQA) OF 17TH OCTOBER 2013**

PRESENT: De Carné, Coppola, Pollastri, Martin, Ginebre, Eramo, Guazzini, Corbalán, Ruippo, Kiciński, Börger, Basto, Cornella, Wells, Clarke, Benvenuti, Vagni, Verset, Strazdina, Mira, Jochum, Matafome, Mateos, Vadász, Tozzi

SECRETARIAT: Valle

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Items 1 and 2: Adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the last meeting

→ The working party, chaired by Mr Olivier DE CARNÉ, convened and adopted the agenda [AQA\(13\)7112 \(rev.2\)](#), the minutes from the last meeting [AQA\(13\)7154 \(rev.1\)](#) and the minutes from the last Commission advisory group [AQA\(13\)6805 \(rev.1\)](#).

Item 3: Preparation of the meeting of the Advisory Group on Quality in Agricultural Production (25/06/2013)

→ **3.1) Regulation No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs [AQA\(13\)8103 \(rev.1\)](#) :**

- “Mountain product”: latest information on the delegated act on the application of the optional quality term “mountain product”

The Secretariat informed members of the current situation. Compared with the last meeting, the draft now established the maximum percentage of animal feed for ruminants which may not be produced in the mountain area at 40%, instead of one third, as was foreseen in the previous draft. For processing, the scope of the derogation had been expanded to all dairy products, instead of just milk and cream as initially planned.

The group held the view that the draft ought to be revised in order to guarantee that this term added value to mountain food supply chains. Following the debate, the Chair summarised the opinions shared by the group on this draft: 1) The exceptions proposed by the Commission on feed which cannot be produced in mountain areas were too restrictive. 2) Concerning processing, the derogations should be justified on a case-by-case basis rather than systematically and 3) It was proving difficult to find sufficient quantities of feed from mountain areas to supply the pigmeat and aquaculture sectors

- “Local farming and direct sales”: Preparation of the report on the new labelling scheme for local farming and direct sales:

The Secretariat explained that for the moment the Commission had abandoned the debate on the delegated act. It would concentrate on the report which would be sent to the European Parliament and Council in order to enable discussion by the end of 2013 (Article 55 of Regulation No 1151/2012).

Although the report had not yet been made public, the Secretariat drew a few conclusions from it. In the report, it stated that it would be possible to have a new specific labelling system or an optional quality term (to be debated with the EP and the Council), as well as possible aid provided under rural development.

Following the discussion and the comments of the experts, the Chair once again summarised the joint opinions of the working party: 1) The members viewed it as a positive development that the Commission was currently working on the report. 2) It was important to have a definition and to know whether the report was heading in this direction in order to define certain concepts, such as short supply chains and local sales.

- “Product of island farming”: Drafting of a report on a new term: “product of island farming”:

The Secretariat provided the state of play on the issue and presented the conclusions of the workshop on labelling products of island farming, which had been organised by the IPTS in Seville and which the Secretariat had participated in. He reminded members that the Commission had circulated a questionnaire with a view to gathering information from the stakeholders, and mentioned Copa-Cogeca’s response: [AQA\(13\)6211 \(rev.3\)](#)

→ 3.2 Issues related to quality in the Common Agricultural Policy

a) Regulation on rural development aid:

The Secretariat presented Article 17 of the new Common Agricultural Policy. This article covered quality systems under Regulation No 1151, organic farming and voluntary certification systems on agricultural products and foodstuffs recognised by Member States.

The Chair opened the floor to the experts, who voiced their doubts surrounding the beneficiaries of aid and double financing, i.e. the possibility of receiving aid under this article and, for instance, from environmental measures. Requests for clarifications on this detailed information would be made during the advisory group meeting.

b) Marketing standard in the proposed regulation on the single CMO:

The Secretariat presented the marketing standards as well as the list of sectors which would have their own marketing standards, which were: olive oil and table olives, fruit and vegetables, bananas, eggs, poultrymeat and hops.

c) Information concerning the management of supply of products with a PDO/PGI, in conformity with the Regulation on the Single CMO (cheese and ham)

The Secretariat informed members of the possibility of managing supply for products under PDO/PGI schemes. The first sector which this possibility could apply to was the dairy sector, through the milk package. The new CAP also opens this up to ham as a primary ingredient of PDO/PGI products. The Secretariat explained the conditions which must be adhered to within this framework.

→3.3 Development and results of the consultation on the sustainability of the food

system: The Secretariat briefly explained Copa-Cogeca’s contribution to the public consultation on the sustainability of the food system. The deadline had already passed and the Commission was now carrying out an analysis in order to produce a communication.

→3.4 Application of Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 concerning the provision of food

information to consumers: the Secretariat provided the state of play on this issue using a presentation [AQA\(13\)8104 \(rev.1\)](#) which addressed the implementing acts and the reports that the Commission was writing or would write in the future.

- Article 26.2, point b) : After an analysis of several months, the Commission (DG AGRI) had proposed a first draft implementing act to the Member States. This draft proposed an intermediate model whereby the label would have to state the place of rearing of the animal (defined as a period for each species) at Member State level as well as the place of slaughter, also at Member State level.

- Article 26.3: The Commission (DG SANCO) was also working on a draft which it intended to debate with the Member States. The Secretariat explained the direction of the Commission; however, the discussion was still in its infancy.

- Article 26.7: The Secretariat presented the latest information on the report prepared by the Commission (DG SANCO), which it intended to publish by 13th December.

Item 4: Latest information on the revision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls

→ The Secretariat provided an overview of the current situation [AQA\(13\)8101 \(rev.1\)](#) and told the group that the European Parliament had already selected its rapporteurs for the report. The Secretariat also informed the group of Copa-Cogeca's position [AHW\(13\)5210 \(rev.4\)](#), which had already been adopted, and the amendments [AHW\(13\)7415 \(rev.6\)](#) which had been written based on this position.

Point 5: A.O.B.

→ The Chair closed the meeting and reminded those present that there would be an informal meeting (in English) in the afternoon in order to identify sustainability schemes with a large impact in certain countries (in environmental, social and economic terms).