

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN CROPS HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT:

Watts, Gagen, Loggie, Gallardo, Todorova, Verset, Cioroianu, Arion, Sutka, Strindberg, Leidwein, De Montpellier, Cartrysse, Schulman, Arens, Christiansen, Dusser, Matousek, Olah, Mlodecki, Conway, Majauskas, Jirovec, Albino, Senovilla, Mira

SECRETARIAT: Petit

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Item 1: Approval of the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting

→ The Working Party, chaired by Mr Tubery, adopted the agenda. The draft minutes would be submitted for approval by written procedure.

Item 2: Harvest estimations for the 2013/2014 marketing year

→ The round table discussion revealed that rapeseed production had been good, totalling 20.5 million tonnes. The UK delegation expressed their uncertainties on harvest estimations. Several delegations (IE, EE, AT) stated that the harvest had been lower than usual. The UK, Polish, Romanian and German delegations indicated that newly sown crops were doing well. Sunflower production had reached record levels due to good production in Spain and Romania.

→ The Chairman concluded by stressing that the level of rapeseed production was sufficient to satisfy demand on the European food, feed and biofuels markets.

Item 3: Market situation and forecasts

→ Global oilseed production had reached record levels, notably for rapeseed and sunflower. A slight fall in soya sowings was expected in South America, mainly for agronomical reasons. The price ratio between rapeseed and soya was 50%, compared to the normal level of 60%. For one of the first times, the European Union had become a net exporter of rapeseed oil. This tended to push down domestic market prices. Several delegations corroborated this trend in their respective countries. China had also become a new operator on the rapeseed market.

→ The Chairman concluded with the need to continue analysing new developments on the global markets, so as to better comprehend potential market opportunities and new logistical requirements.

Item 4: Follow-up on ILUC

→ The Secretariat presented the European Parliament's draft opinion, as well as the state of play of work within the Council. A debate ensued on the strategy to adopt when lobbying the European Parliament in order to avoid adoption at first reading.

→ The Chairman invited members to get in touch with their MEPs so as to obtain a vote at second reading and to contact their respective ministers on the question of capping the surface area of energy crops.

Item 5: Update on neonicotinoids

→ The Secretariat went over the procedure on managing treated seeds and the possibility to request emergency measures. The Finnish delegation informed members that such a request was being prepared for 2014 spring crops. The French, UK and German delegations informed members about various pilot projects that were underway and that could conclude with results in August 2014.

Item 6: Information on the meeting on research and plant proteins

→ The Secretariat enlightened members about the content of the technical meeting on 10th July. 3 priority areas had been maintained: stability and improving yields, greater awareness of how the plants benefited agricultural production systems and improving outlets (animal feed, management along the entire chain).

Item 7: A.O.B

→ The Secretariat informed members about the EOA's initiative to formalise its collaboration with Copa-Cogeca for the oilseeds sector. A partnership agreement was being drafted.

→ The next meeting would be held on 17th December 2013.
