

## **Minutes from the meeting of Geopa-Copa on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011**

### **Present:**

Levacher, Brum, Botterman, Van Der Grind, Lopez Garcia-Asenjo, Matousek, Morais, Todorova, Rolenska, Schünemann, Rekola, Lechner, Marquet, Potter, Fiddaman, Nowicka, Todorova, Bohorquez, Jensen, Motiejuniene, Hauka, Terander, Gunning, Maitino, Gerardo, Turley, Pagano, Merlino, Magrini, Mate, Rolewska

**Secretariat:** Luycx, Zolla

**The minutes** of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 [EA\(10\)9359 \(rev.1\)](#) **and the agenda** EA(11)8588:1 were adopted with some changes to the order of items on the agenda. The President introduced Federica Zolla, the replacement for Agnès Luycx who would be retiring in January 2012. The President stated that he would chair the meeting until midday and that this would be his last meeting as President.

**Information on membership fees requested by Copa from members of Geopa for 2011.** The President informed delegates that GESASE (GR) and NFPAR (RO) had not paid their membership fees and were therefore no longer members. The President informed members that Geopa membership fees would not increase in 2012. The distribution of membership fees can be found as an appendix to these minutes, see EA(11)9202 (rev.1).

In keeping with art. 154 of the TFEU, the Commission had the task of promoting the consultation of social partners. The amendment to the rules of procedure concerning the discussion of **position papers** by written procedure was adopted unanimously EA(11)230 (rev.2). The rules of procedure EA(09)1621 (rev.5) would therefore be amended.

**Legislative Proposals for the CAP PAC(11)7038 (rev.8).** Shelby Matthews spoke primarily about 2 issues: capping of direct payments and the definition of active farmers. Some members had questions about the definition of active farmers, the extent to which social security contributions could be deducted from the potential capped payments and the possible differences of opinion on this issue, the options for early retirement, the lack of consistency in payments to newer and older Member States, the difference between costs and receipts, and the status of small farmers.

Mr Brum presented the **report on the seminar** on the continued vocational training of agricultural workers in the European Union that took place in Hämeenlinna (FI) from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Mr Magrini observed that his comments on the CAP had not been reported.

**Election of the bureau for 2011-2013.** Document EA(11)8983 (rev.4) listed the candidates for the various positions. Mr Matousek withdrew his candidacy due to a difference of opinion between the Chambers of Agriculture and the employers' organisation. Following a decision by the bureau, he would remain in the Geopa bureau as a point of contact between Geopa and Copa. He would not have voting rights. He would take up his new role at the end of 2011. The Secretariat informed delegates that the rules of procedure did not specify an election procedure but did stipulate the number of votes allocated to each delegation. There would be a vote

requiring a simple majority for each position. The Secretariat informed members that no proxy votes had been received.

Arnold Brum and Federica Zolla volunteered to act as scrutineers along with Agnès Luycx from the Secretariat. The candidates were asked to introduce themselves.

The following were standing for the position of President: Chris Botterman (BE) - BB and Gerardo Diana (IT) - Confagricoltura. Mr Lechner requested the floor and stated that some countries believed that, on principle, representatives should be farmers and that it would therefore be desirable to follow the same rule for the Presidency of Geopa. Agnès Luycx thanked him for his statement and pointed out that, as the rules of procedure did not mention this issue, both candidacies were valid. **Chris Botterman was elected President.**

Bob Fiddaman (UK) - NFU and Joseph Lechner (FR) - FNSEA were standing for the position of First Vice President. Gerardo Diana was asked if he wished to stand for this position, but he declined. Joseph Lechner withdrew his candidacy. **Bob Fiddaman (UK) - NFU was elected First Vice President by acclamation.**

Joseph Lechner (FR) - FNSEA and Veli Matti Rekola (FI) - MTA were standing for the position of Second Vice President. Gerardo Diana was asked if he wished to stand for this position, but he declined. Joseph Lechner requested that the meeting be suspended. Afterwards, he withdrew his candidacy. **Veli Matti Rekola (FI) - MTA was elected Second Vice President.**

Jose Bohorquez Mora-Figuera (ES) - ASAJA and Danuta Kozusznik (PL) - KZRKiOR were standing as members of the bureau. Those who had not been elected were asked if they wished to stand for these positions; Gerardo Diana did not wish to stand but Joseph Lechner did. **Jose Bohorquez Mora-Figuera (ES) - ASAJA, Danuta Kozusznik (PL) - KZRKiOR and Joseph Lechner (FR) - FNSEA were elected.**

Bulgaria's vote was not counted as it had observer status. Document EA(11)8983 (rev.4) listed the members of the Geopa-Copa bureau for 2011-2013.

**Mr Botterman opened the afternoon session.** He thanked members for their support and expressed his hope for good co-operation.

Following the seminar that took place in Finland, Mr Brum presented the report on **the implementation of the European agreement of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2002 on vocational training in agriculture.** The report was approved subject to certain modifications. He would present the report to EFFAT at the meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee the following day.

The Geopa **Seminar 2012** project evaluating the 2005 agreement on MSDs had been accepted by the European Commission. The seminar would take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June in Maastricht.

**European social partner negotiations** (BusinessEurope and CES) on **the Working Time Directive.** The Secretariat had not received any candidacies for the position of observer. Another request would be made and if nobody came forward, the President would participate in the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December. See EA(11)8945 (rev.1).

Reply to the Spanish delegation's question on current **national legislation on health and safety at work:** Requirement for workers (including seasonal workers) to undergo a medical examination before being taken on EA(11)7420 (rev.2). Four delegations had responded to this question [EA(11)7420 (rev.2)] and the additional replies were outlined in the document. The German delegation raised the possibility of exchanging information when there is no binding European legislation. Members were not all in agreement on this suggestion.

**Feasibility of an enquiry into the cost of work carried out by seasonal workers.** EA(11)7231 (rev.1). Although 8 delegations had responded to the enquiry, a round table discussion revealed that no members were in favour of collecting data in this way.

"Agriculture reference group" for the development of Agripass by ESCO.

The President invited members to meet that evening to thank Mr Levacher and Agnès Luycx for their commitment. He then thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting.

