



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate C. Strategy, simplification and policy analysis
C.1. Policy perspectives

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MEETING ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018 WITH A DELEGATION FROM COPA COGECA

Participants:

- Copa Cogeca: Pekka Pesonen (Secretary General), [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- DG AGRI: Jerzy Plewa (DG), Jens Schap (Director G), Michael Niehjahr (Director I), [REDACTED] (I4), [REDACTED] (I4), [REDACTED] (C1)

Copa Cogeca raised the following topics:

1. Brexit: Copa Cogeca is worried about future market developments
2. Mercosur negotiations: Copa Cogeca has concerns on consequences for the agricultural sector
3. MFF proposals: Copa Cogeca appreciates acknowledgement of value of EU agriculture by Csr Oettinger and efforts to motivate MS to agree on a reasonable EU budget
4. CAP Communication:
 - Copa Cogeca generally welcomes Communication
 - The following points raise concerns:
 - Enhanced eco-conditionality: Copa Cogeca enquired about further details (in particular on possible impact on farms now exempted from greening) to prepare the discussions for its upcoming Presidia meeting; it also recalled the need to keep a common approach; it expressed favourable position on the use of new technologies and on the principle of crop rotation.
 - Two pillar approach: Copa Cogeca expressed need to keep distinction between the two pillars
 - Capping: Copa Cogeca expressed concerns about capping
5. CDGs:
 - Would like to meet I4 for practical information on AGM
 - Considers that the CDG on Tobacco should not be abolished; it is still an important sector and the Arable Crops CDG is not the right forum, they say
 - Refers to the criticisms of non-economic NGOs in the CDGs, that COPA-COGECA finances the travel expenses of their meetings through the CDG meetings. COPA-COGECA says that their organisation does not get direct COM support (as it is the case with other organisations, they say); and that the travel reimbursement is an incentive for COPA-COGECA members to actively participate at the meetings.

- Agrees that CDG meetings with no relevant agenda items should not be organised
- Questions the role of non-economic NGO in CDG meetings
- Would like a workshop COPA-COGECA and AGRI to discuss about the future of CDGs

DG AGRI replied respectively:

1. Brexit: DG AGRI is aware of concerns and is closely working with other Commission services (TF50) to ensure smooth progress
2. Mercosur: DG AGRI is aware of the challenging negotiations and closely working with other Commission services; solution yet to be found for EU offensive interests, protection of sensitive products and GIs
3. CAP Communication:
 - DG AGRI welcomes general agreement of Copa Cogeca on the Communication
 - Current context required to show value added of CAP, to simplify it and to make it more result-orientated
 - What is aimed for is more subsidiarity and more simplification (e.g. Task Force for CAP plan, reduction of EU controls)
 - There will be no re-nationalisation given EU level elements (common objectives, common indicators, approval)
 - DG AGRI reaction on specific points:
 - Enhanced eco-conditionality: Enhanced environmental and climate ambition is the objective, but what is aimed for is not to completely overhaul current system (enhanced GAEC, voluntary elements to persist); Member States do already now have flexibility and will have opportunities for even better targeting in future; details and their assessment are still under discussion.
 - Capping: It is part on the MFF-discussion and not to be prejudged; there are several factors to be taken into account (e.g. political positions on small farms, contribution to labour)
4. CDGs:
 - Need to rationalise the number of CDG meetings.
 - Non-economic NGO are also part of CDGs; more technical discussions take place in other for a (e.g. market observatories)

It was agreed to aim at further exchanges of information, starting with an explanatory meeting for better understanding of the new CDG rules.

"e-signed"

Copies: Jerzy Plewa (DG), Jens Schap (Director G), Michael Niejahr (Director I),
 (I4), (I4), (C1),
 (C1)