



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate I. Legal, institutional and procedural matters  
**I.4. Adoption procedures, committees, expert groups and civil dialogue groups**

Brussels,

(2018)6592435

**MINUTES**

*Meeting with COPA-COGECA*

*Date: 13 November 2018*

**1. Background and subject of the meeting**

COPA-COGECA asked for a meeting in order to discuss some technical aspects related to the current functioning of the Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) meetings and future development in CDGs, including impact of Brexit.

**2. Points discussed**

COPA-COGECA enquires the date of the next CDG stock-taking meeting. I.4 announces that it will be held beginning of next year; the date is not fixed yet.

COPA-COGECA expresses interest in keeping several meetings (ideally 3 meetings per year) for CDG CAP, Direct payments and Greening and International Aspects of Agriculture due to the ongoing CAP reform process.

COPA-COGECA asks DG AGRI about the budgetary situation as regards the number of CDG meetings in 2019. DG AGRI outlines that there is no change in this respect, the rationalisation exercise (re-allocation of resources between the CDGs) is the line to follow.

COPA-COGECA expresses interest in active involvement as regards the composition of CDGs after 2020. DG AGRI underlines that the Study on CDGs is expected to deliver added value on this aspect and that DG AGRI counts on the valuable contribution of the NGOs via the interviews and surveys to be organised by the contractor.

COPA-COGECA thanks DG AGRI for the information given on the practical consequences of Brexit on the functioning of CDGs, namely that for the moment there will be no change in the participation of UK experts. It asks to be kept informed if further news on this.

As regards the organisational aspects of the CDG meetings, COPA-COGECA asks not to organise any meetings on Monday mornings as it holds preparatory meetings for each CDG. Meetings on Monday afternoons or on Fridays are acceptable.

It appreciates the efforts and recognises the improvement achieved by DG AGRI as regards sending invitation and agendas on time before the meetings and preparing and publishing minutes on the Europa website.

DG AGRI highlights again that using modern technologies, such as web-streaming/web-conferencing, could be an interesting alternative to in-vivo meetings. Though COPA-COGECA admits that the use of new technologies is helpful especially for urgent and ad-hoc meetings and is ready to investigate this option, it underlines that lobbying remains a face-to-face activity. COPA-COGECA is however aware that holding meetings at regional or local level would help it reach out to the local farmers and represent their interests better.

Regarding the constraints of SCIC and limited availability of interpreters in some languages, COPA-COGECA reaffirms its willingness to help with meeting rooms and the provision of interpretation in its headquarters in Brussels, but DG AGRI explains that accepting this offer might not comply with our internal rules on relationship with interest groups and on gifts and hospitality.

DG AGRI highlights that some meeting participants do not accept invitations sent from AGM. As the experts do not provide the e-pass information via AGM they are not properly registered for the meeting; they show up without valid registration /ePass at the entrance. The registration of delegates at the reception causes considerable delays in starting the CDG meetings.

COPA-COGECA is generally satisfied with the use of AGM but mentions that some of their experts faced difficulties. DG AGRI reiterates that the AGM technical Helpdesk can really help in case problems occur.

DG AGRI expresses its appreciation to COPA-COGECA for applying for the Chair position of CDG Environment and Climate Change in the absence of interest of other NGOs. This ensures the proper functioning of the group.

COPA-COGECA asks how much money is reimbursed yearly to its members for participating in CDG meetings (including travelling, accommodation and daily allowances received). DG AGRI will come back to COPA-COGECA on this request.

## **Annex:**

List of participants

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	NAME	FUNCTION/ENTITY
1.	Pekka Pesonen	Secretary General, COPA-COGECA