

Weekly Newsflash

A weekly newsletter to the member organisations of Copa-Cogeca
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EU Farm Ministers debate Future CAP and markets: Copa and Cogeca outline views

EU Farm Ministers discussed the EU Commission proposal on the future CAP and the agricultural market situation for dairy and pigmeat on June 18-19. Copa and Cogeca Presidents outlined our views underlining that the EU Commission proposal must be improved significantly to ensure a viable sector and call for a real simplification of CAP rules. It is vital to ensure that there is no renationalization of the CAP, and it is backed up by a stronger budget. The new delivery model outlined in this proposal will not deliver a real simplification for farmers. We are very concerned that **direct payments**, that are the best way to stabilise farmer's incomes and to help them to better manage income risks, are being eroded. We oppose any capping or degressivity of payments as proposed by the Commission. **Ministers reaction** Ministers welcome some aspects of the proposal but many Ministers expressed concerns about the proposed cuts in the EU budget. Some have also highlighted in particular that the 15% cut in rural development funds is too much. Many Ministers warned that the new delivery model does not amount to simplification. Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Czech Republic and Estonia opposed the ceiling on direct support. **Agriculture MEPs:** also told Commissioner Hogan that the proposal lacks ambition and a proper budget behind it and risk increasing bureaucracy for farmers.

Details of the proposal? The proposal includes further moves towards internal and external convergence as well as up to 15% transfers between pillar I and II. It also includes compulsory capping of direct payments to farmers at 100, 000 euro with cuts starting at 60,000 euro which Copa and Cogeca oppose. 40% of direct decoupled payments will focus on meeting environment and climate objectives. The top up for young farmers remains at 2% and start up support for young farmers will be increased to 100, 000 euros. Voluntary Coupled Support (VCS) will be limited to 10% + 2% (for protein crops) of direct payments.

Copa and Cogeca draw attention to the difficult situation on some EU agricultural markets at Farm Ministers meeting

Copa and Cogeca highlighted this week that reductions in cereals, oilseeds, forage output are forecast in some cases, due to bad weather conditions, with drought seen in some Northern countries and floods in some southern countries. EU sugar beet growers have also been badly affected by high world stocks and low prices. The **pork** market meanwhile remains fragile but stable. On the **dairy** market, butter prices are seeing historical highs, reaching 589 euros/100 kg today and the skimmed milk powder price is gradually recovering at 152 euros/100 kg, with indications that demand is growing. The move came as the issue was discussed by EU Farm Ministers in Luxembourg. **Ministers and Commission:** agree to closely monitor situation

Copa and Cogeca welcome EU Ministers discussion rejecting U.S. import duties on Spanish table olives

Copa and Cogeca welcomed this week the Spanish Farm Ministers' rejection of the United States' Department of Commerce decision to accept the imposition of import duties on Spanish

table olives, and called for action. Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen said “It is good news that both the Spanish Minister and EU Commission support our calls to stop Spanish olives facing total taxes of 34.75% to enter the U.S. market, as it clearly amounts to protectionism. We are very disappointed with the U.S. Department of Commerce decision on Friday to impose anti-subsidy and anti-dumping duties on Spanish table olive imports especially since the product is very popular amongst U.S. consumers. It is unjustified and disproportionate and it goes against our common interest to develop good trading relations with the U.S.”. Implementation of the decision is still waiting final confirmation by the U.S. Department of Trade at the end of July. But Copa and Cogeca warn that Spanish imports have already faced additional duties totaling 21.6% since January this year, causing Spanish exports to the U.S. to drop by as much as 42.4% in the first quarter of 2018. This is having a disastrous impact on the Spanish market, growth and jobs. To make matters worse, the gap is not being replaced by U.S. production but by a 33% increase in imports from Morocco, 50% from Egypt and 82% from Turkey. Copa and Cogeca consequently call on the Commission to step up action against these unjustified measures that amount to protectionism. **EU Commissioner Phil Hogan** also lamented the USA move, saying he was prepared to go to the WTO if necessary. **Media:** good response

Copa and Cogeca warn of difficult EU sheep market and call to revitalize sector #Livestockcounts

Copa and Cogeca drew attention to the fragile situation on the EU sheep market this week, hit by low consumption and prices, and highlighted the need for innovation and promotion measures to boost consumption, especially amongst the young. Outlining the market situation, Copa and Cogecas’ Sheepmeat Working Party Chairwoman Michèle Boudoin said consumption reaches around 2-2.5 kg per head a year in many Member States, apart from Greece where it reaches 4.5 kg per head annually, compared to 18 kg/head per year some time ago. Whilst EU sheep production is up 6.8% on last years’ levels and by 10.9% for goats. Prices for heavy lambs are declining but still slightly above the low levels seen last year whilst light lamb prices are below 2017 levels. Copa and Cogecas’ Sheepmeat Working Party Chairwoman Michèle Boudoin consequently highlighted the need to make the sector more dynamic and more attractive to young people once more and also to solve the problem of attacks on sheep flocks by large carnivores such as wolves, which is destroying farmers livelihoods. This was supported by Spanish MEP Esther Herranz Garcia, author of a report on the future of the sector for European Parliament, who warned of the rural exodus at the meeting. The report includes recommendations to have strong support in the sheep sector via the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with an emphasis on rewarding sheep farming in areas with natural constraints to boost employment in rural areas and to better support farmers who do more in terms of animal welfare.

Medicated feed: MEPs approve rules: New harmonized rules to produce, sell and use medicated feed have been approved by MEPs Agriculture Committee. Medicated feed is an important way among several of administering medicines to animals following very strict requirements. Copa and Cogeca welcome the fact that the main horizontal provisions on its use are in line with the agreement on veterinary medicinal products. We also welcome future requirements to be science based, proportional, technically feasible and open to scientific progress. Next steps: It still needs to be approved by the full set of MEPs and Ministers.

Farmers complain of threats and abuse from activists

Many farm unions complained at Praesidia this week, especially the UK and Sweden, of threats and abuse from animal welfarists. The Swedish farm union LRF warned that the situation has got much worse in the past year with outrageous accusations like “milk is murder in a bottle” and “farmers are stealing milk from a calf”, forcing them to get police and legal advice. Copa and

Cogeca will set up a task force on this to prevent farmers and coops who play a crucial role in feeding Europe from being subject to such abuse.

Copa Cogeca Task Force joint meeting with Polish Ministry of Agriculture on ASF

Copa Cogeca African Swine Fever Task Force was hosted by Polish Ministry of Agriculture where a joint meeting was organised to discuss the measures taken in the fight with this dangerous disease. The Vice-Minister of Poland Rafal Romanowski welcomed the Copa and Cogeca delegation underlining that EU producers stand united on the actions taken to support affected farmers. The main points raised in the discussion were the importance of the recognition of regionalization by third country trading partners, wild boar management in wildlife and farmers commitment to strong biosecurity measures implemented on their farms. Copa Cogeca decided to issue a brochure that would promote measures of biosecurity and will continue to cooperate with the Commission on this issue.



EU officially launches trade talks with Australia

The EU officially launched negotiations for a trade agreement with Australia this week. Copa and Cogeca have some concerns about it and will monitor the situation closely.

Copa and Cogeca approve recommendations for a European protein crop plan

With the EU facing a deficit in protein crop supply, Copa and Cogeca agreed this week on a European protein crop plan to encourage the production of oilseeds, protein crops and fodder legumes in the EU. We also support the EU Commission initiative to present a report on the EU protein crop strategy by the end of the year, underlining their clear environmental benefits in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, benefiting biodiversity and improving soil quality. Check out details of the recommendations in GOL (18) 585 in agri-info

New edition of Copa and Cogecas Magazine focusing on future CAP and Budget out

Copa and Cogeca have released the next edition of our magazine focusing on the future CAP and EU budget as well as on Unfair trading Practices (UTPs) in the food chain, in view of the proposals on this. Check out the link here: <http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/Download.ashx?ID=1834991&fmt=pdf>

European farmers and cooperatives open their doors to the public in 2018:

Copa and Cogeca welcomed this week the launch of French farm open day, bringing consumers back in touch with agriculture and showing where their food comes from. Open farm and cooperatives days are taking place all across Europe

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen stressed “More and more, there are on-farm activities and farm open days across Europe, with farm schools and cooking workshops which provide closer contacts with citizens and enhance consumers’ connection with farming, food and

rural areas. This successful initiative enables consumers, especially the young, to discover delicious new recipes and a healthy lifestyle. It shows the good farming and welfare practices our farmers meet. It also highlights the benefit to society at large of farmers and farmers cooperatives in preserving the countryside". "Ahead of the EU Commission proposal on the future of food and farming out this week, this confirms the need for a strong Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), backed up by a strong EU budget", Pesonen insisted.

Check out the agenda here to find a farm or cooperative near you to discover the multiple benefits of agriculture and to have a fun day out with the family:

June 23/4 2018: Wallonian Farm Open Day (FWA): www.fwa.be

July 22: Estonian FarmOpenDay <https://www.facebook.com/events/1753794027964630/>

September 16 2018: Farm open days in Flanders, Belgium by Boerenbond & Denmark (DAFC) www.boerenbond.be ; www.agricultureandfood.dk

Upcoming events

Summer Cocktail and Agri-Coops Pub Quizz: July 11

Cogeca are holding a Summer cocktail and agri-coop pub quiz to celebrate the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives on July 11 @17.30 h at Atelier 29, Rue Jacques de Lalaing 29, 1000 Brussels.

Euractiv event on future CAP: July 12

Together with the EU Commission, Copa and Cogeca Chief Policy Advisor Paulo Gouveia is taking part in Euractiv's event on "Greening European agriculture: can the new CAP be really green?" on July 12 @12-14 h at Euractiv Office, 1 Boulevard Charlemagne 1, 1040 Brussels. Come and join us !

Copa-Cogeca Congress in Austria

Together with our Austrian members LKO, Copa and Cogeca invite you to our next Congress in the beautiful area of Linz Austria at the Austrian Design Centre on October 10-12 to debate the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), enjoy farm visits and networking along the river Danube. Come and join us at the Congress and experience some great agri produce and regional specialities

TIMETABLE FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS

June 23/4 2018: Wallonian Farm Open Day (FWA): www.fwa.be

June 25-29: EU bee week

July 11: Cogeca pub quizz

July 12: Copa and Cogeca participating in Euractiv event on new CAP

July 22 2018: Estonian FarmOpenDay

September 16 2018: Farm open days in Flanders, Belgium by Boerenbond & Denmark (DAFC) www.boerenbond.be ; www.agricultureandfood.dk

October 10-12: Copa and Cogeca Congress