

Weekly Newsflash

A weekly newsletter to the member organisations of Copa-Cogeca
25.5.18

European Parliament set to vote on report on Future of Food and Farming and EU Commission to officially release proposal

European **Parliament** is set to vote on an own-initiative report on **May 30** on the Future of Food and Farming by MEP Herbert Dorfmann. Copa and Cogeca believe that some aspects go in the right direction. The EU's farming policy can be further simplified but must remain a common policy with a proper budget to deliver it, Agriculture MEPs said. After the vote in the EP Plenary, the European **Commission** is set to adopt its official proposal on the Future of Food and Farming tentatively scheduled for **June 1**. Copa and Cogeca are closely monitoring it and we will present our views at the Bulgarian Informal Agriculture Council which will focus on the future CAP and generation renewal on June 3-5. We will also outline our views on this crucial issue to the European network of journalists in Sofia.

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

Copa and Cogeca are set to release the next edition of Copa and Cogeca's 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.

Mercosur: Copa and Cogeca major concerns about developments in EU trade talks

Copa and Cogeca sent a letter to EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom this week opposing the EU moves to give concessions on agriculture in return for gains in other economic sectors to the Latin American Trade bloc Mercosur.

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen explained "The EU has given substantial amounts on agriculture to the Mercosur countries in the trade negotiations to date, without getting much in return in particular in agriculture. Trade concessions must be minimized for our more sensitive sectors, namely beef, sugar, poultry, ethanol, rice and orange juice imports. It is of paramount importance to include the right tools to manage imports, avoiding market disruptions and giving a fair chance to SMEs".

"We need balanced trade agreements, which respect our production methods. At a time when European farmers face additional restrictions on their activities and are implementing measures to adapt to climate change, other trade partners are increasing their land under production at the expense of deforestation", warned Pesonen. "In view of the uncertainties in the Brexit talks, as well as talks on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and EU budget, we urge the EU not to put further pressure on the agriculture sector," said Pesonen.

Beef? "A Europe that protects" was the motto of the European Commission at the beginning of its mandate. Four years later, however, the EU beef sector is threatened, added Jean-Pierre Fleury, Chairman of Copa and Cogeca's Beef Working Party. "We wonder if the Commission is taking into consideration the cumulative impact of the trade agreements with Canada which increases access to the EU market for beef by up to 65 000 tonnes, Mexico by 20 000 tonnes, combined with the current negotiations with the Latin American trade bloc Mercosur and the upcoming ones with Australia and New Zealand where our trading partners are expecting

additional concessions. This is on top of the uncertainty created by Brexit which is a big export market for our beef. We cannot accept sacrificing the livestock sector and food security in return for better conditions in other strategic sectors in the trade negotiations”, Fleury warned.

Food Chain: EU Commission plans to fight unfair trading practices priority for

Chairman Joe Healy Number one priority for newly re-elected Chairman of Copa and Cogecas Food Chain Working Party Joe Healy from Ireland is to make swift progress on EU Commission plans to crack down on unfair trading practices in the food chain to ensure fair returns for producers.

Speaking after the unanimous vote in Brussels this week, Mr Healy said “Legislation already exists in 20 Member States but it needs to be backed up by EU legislation to ensure a level playing field as well as to address transnational Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) that could otherwise be left unchallenged. We need strong enforcement led by an independent authority able to initiate and conduct investigations and apply deterrent sanctions in case of non-compliance. We also need to increase the scope of this proposed Directive and ensure that all businesses are covered by it. I hope that Parliament will strengthen it when they discuss it in the months ahead”. The issue was also discussed with draftsman of Parliaments report on the proposal MEP **Paolo de Castro** who described it as “a very positive” proposal and believes that excellent work can be done on this to ensure more fairness in the food chain

Next steps: The report is expected to be finalized in July and voted on by MEPs Agriculture Committee at plenary session in September, followed by a plenary vote in October and adoption by the end of the year. It has also been marked as a priority by the Austrian Presidency when it takes over the EU Council presidency in July. **#Fairfoodchain**



Organic: EU Commission welcomes Member States approval of new rules

After European Parliament and Member States approved the political agreement on the EU organic farming review, Copa and Cogeca are set to work on effective implementing rules to ensure a smooth transition and harmonised implementation of organic technical rules.

World Biodiversity Day: farmers and cooperatives crucial for biodiversity

Copa and Cogeca celebrated World Biodiversity Day this week, underlining that farmers and forest owners provide consumers with quality food, preserve landscapes, reduce land abandonment and maintain biodiversity. They integrate biodiversity friendly farming practices into their daily business, preserving and restoring endangered species and habitats throughout the EU, through schemes such as the Natura 2000 network.

“But farmers’ and forest owners success in achieving this can come at a cost, raising socio-economic problems for rural areas and the farming community, especially livestock farmers, forest owners and beekeepers. Damages resulting from **large carnivore attacks** like wolves

on livestock and from other conflicting species protected under the EU Nature Directive have increased significantly, reaching intolerable levels in some cases”, said Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen. Copa and Cogeca believe that better population control and damage management are needed. Conservation measures should focus more on the sustainable and productive use of land, to achieve the right balance between nature and maintaining farmers livelihoods. Copa and Cogeca are calling for an update of the annexes under Natura 2000 and an effective use of derogations provided under the EU Nature Directives.

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

Many of Copa and Cogeca’s members run their own national farm open days, bringing consumers back in touch with nature, farming and food. The initiative enables consumers, especially the young, to gain more familiarity with farms, farm schools, delicious recipes, cooking and education on farms, promoting healthy eating, good farming and welfare practices and rural tourism. It brings consumers closer to nature and shows the benefit to society at large of farmers and farmers cooperatives in preserving the countryside. Come and join us !

Timetable for National Open Farm Days & Cooperative Open Days 2018:

May 11/21 2018: Dutch Dairy Farm Open Days www.campina.nl

May 28 2018: FNSEA French Farm Open Days: www.fnsea.fr

June 1-10 2018: Third edition of Agricultural Cooperative Week in France open to the public: www.coopdefrance.coop

June 9-10 2018: DBV German Farm Open Days: <http://www.bauernverband.de>

June 10 2018: Open Farm Sunday (England, Scotland & Wales): www.nfu.co.uk

June 16/17 2018: Farm Open Day, Northern Ireland: www.ufuni.org
<http://openfarmweekend.com/>

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

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

May 21-25: EU Green Week

May 11/21 2018: Dutch Dairy Farm Open Days www.campina.nl

May 28 2018: FNSEA French Farm Open Days: www.fnsea.fr

June 1-10 2018: Third edition of Agricultural Cooperative Week in France open to the public: www.coopdefrance.coop

June 3-5 : Cogeca and Cogeca to attend Bulgarian Informal Agriculture Council on future CAP and hold press event with European journalists

June 10 2018: Open Farm Sunday (England, Scotland & Wales): www.nfu.co.uk

June 14: Joint Copa and Cogeca Praesidium

June 16/17 2018: Farm Open Day, Northern Ireland: www.ufuni.org
<http://openfarmweekend.com/>

June 18-19: EU Agriculture Council

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

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