

Weekly Newsflash

A weekly newsletter to the member organisations of Copa-Cogeca
29.6.18

PUB(18)5107:1

Austrian Presidency outlines priorities: Future CAP, budget, UTPs

Top priority for the Austrian Presidency is to make progress on the EU Commission proposal on the **future CAP and EU budget post 2020** as well as the proposal to **tackle unfair trading practices (UTPs)** in the food chain when they take over the EU Council Presidency on July 1. Faced with a very challenging timetable, the Austrian Presidency will debate simplification of the CAP at their next meeting on July 16, with the aim of having a general approach or partial general approach by December. It will also be debated at Ministers **informal** meeting on September 23-25. Ministers have been quite critical of the proposal, with many warning that the new delivery model does not amount to simplification and many oppose the budget cuts. The Presidency also aims to conclude the proposal on **UTPS** and sees a willingness from MEPs and Ministers to do this. They will hold a conference on the bioeconomy as well as on the water framework directive. In November, there will be a conference on further developing **protein crops**. There will be a review of the EU forest strategy and they will continue work on legislation on veterinary medicinal products, medicated feed and the new Plant Health and Controls Regulation. **Copa and Cogeca** also underline that the EU Commission proposal on the future CAP must be improved significantly to ensure a viable sector and call for a real simplification of CAP rules. It

Details of the CAP proposal? The CAP proposal includes further moves towards internal and external convergence as well as up to 15% transfers between pillars and an additional transfer from Pillar I to Pillar II of up to 15% for environment and climate measures. A transfer of up to 2% in support for young farmers is also allowed from Pillar I to Pillar 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. The top up for young farmers remains at 2% and start up support for young farmers will be increased to a maximum of 100,000 euros. Voluntary Coupled Support (VCS) will be limited to 10% + 2% (for protein crops) of direct payments.

Spanish farm union Asaja meets Commissioner Hogan on future CAP

Pedro Barato – President of the Spanish Farm Union Asaja – stepped up pressure this week and met EU Farm Commissioner Hogan to call for no renationalisation of the CAP, no farm budget cuts, no capping, and a real simplification of rules in a 10 point declaration. Like Copa and Cogeca he called for a strong budget for the next **#CAP** as well as a strong, competitive and sustainable **#CAP** in the future, with common and simple rules across the EU. We want a real **#simplification** 4 **#farmers**.



European Parliament report to tackle unfair trading practices (UTPs) in food chain

welcome news #fairfoodchain

Copa and Cogeca support European Parliament's draft report on the EU Commission's plan to fight unfair trading practices (UTPs) in the food supply chain to help producers get a better return from the market. Speaking after a meeting with MEP Paolo De Castro, author of Parliament's Agriculture Committee report, Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen said "We very much support Mr De Castro's work on this crucial issue. Farmers receive only 23% of the added value of agriculture products whilst the share of retailers is at 53% and has been increasing. We need legislation at EU level to tackle this as we have clearly seen that voluntary approaches alone do not work. We also need to increase the scope of this proposed Directive and ensure that all businesses are protected by it. The Commission's proposal can be improved and go further and that is what MEP De Castro has done in his report".

Next steps: The report is expected to be presented in July and voted on by MEPs Agriculture Committee in October, followed by a plenary vote in late October and then trilogues until 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 on July 1.

Copa and Cogeca revise EU grain forecasts downwards and draw attention to difficult EU market situation

Copa and Cogeca highlighted this week that reductions in cereals, oilseeds, forage output are forecast in some cases, due to bad weather conditions, with severe drought seen in some Central European and Northern countries and floods in some southern countries. Copa and Cogeca estimates have consequently been revised downwards. Copa and Cogeca are requesting an advance payment from the EU Commission.

Extreme weather in some countries? Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Sweden and Finland have written to the Commission complaining of the catastrophic situation, with up to 30–50% of the harvest lost this year. The Polish situation has also reached catastrophic proportions. The Commission has so far granted an exemption to at least Finland and Sweden to use grass collected from EFA-areas for feed on the grounds of a shortage of grass feed next winter. The authorities from both countries have applied this exemption.

Copa and Cogeca call for sufficient tool box to help farmers tackle pests and disease at public hearing

Copa and Cogeca underlined the need for farmers to have a good tool box available in order to fight pests and disease and to feed a growing world at a European Parliament meeting this week. Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen warned "Despite the fact that farmers use plant protection products in a safe way, with science to back them up, farmers' tool box is being constantly eroded, putting them at a severe competitive disadvantage to their competitors. It results in the loss of safe and efficient tools". Copa and Cogeca consequently urge the EU to base their decisions on science. "We need a competitive, sustainable sector capable of meeting growing world food demand. Trust in our EU institutions must be re-built. Science must come first", Pesonen concluded.

European Week of Bees and Pollinators' 2018: High-Level Conference

Copa and Cogeca participated this week in a high level conference during European Week of Bees and Pollinators' 2018 exchanging views and experiences between bee keepers and farmers and best practices for bees in the agricultural sector #BeeWeek2018

Copa and Cogeca outline groundbreaking EU Code of Conduct on agricultural data sharing at high-level conference #DA18eu Copa and Cogeca underlined the importance of a joint EU Code of Conduct on agricultural data sharing at a major Conference hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency this week, to move farmers into the digital era. The benefits for farmers of **precision agriculture** are all too clear, enabling farmers to produce more efficiently and save

on input costs, tap into new markets, adapt business plans, improve bargaining power of farmers and improve life conditions of farmers and their families. But uptake can be improved. Copa and Cogeca, CEMA, Fertilizers Europe, CEETTAR, CEJA, ECPA, EFFAB, FEFAC, ESA, joint EU **code of conduct** on agricultural data sharing has been highlighted as ground breaking to move farmers into the digital era by clarifying responsibilities and benefits. Speaking at the high-level meeting, Copa-Cogeca Director Daniel Azevedo said “Farmers desperately need access to new technologies in order to compete on world markets. Farmers need access to the right infrastructure, such as broadband in remote areas and satellite (copernicus, galileo), in order to take advantage of these new technologies. Innovation is crucial”. The high level conference was hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency, with EU Commissioner Gabriel. [Click HERE](#) for more details of this EU Code of Conduct on Agricultural Data Sharing by Contractual Arrangement to reap the benefits of digital agriculture.

Milk: EU sells skimmed milk powder stocks: market picking up The Commission has sold a further 23 532.37 tonnes of skimmed milk powder (SMP) stocks from intervention this week. The **market situation** is quite positive, with favourable EU butter prices, due to positive consumption trends. The market situation for skimmed milk powder remains quite fragile with prices at less than levels seen last year, but they are starting to pick up. This is partly as a result of lower production volumes than expected. The EU Commission is also making sure that the large quantities of skimmed milk powder in public intervention are being put back on the market gradually, to avoid creating a crisis situation. The situation nevertheless varies between member states, being challenging in the Baltics for example.

Copa and Cogeca warn of difficult EU sheep market and call to revitalize sector 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. 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. She 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. She also wants to find measures how to revalorize **wool**, as it is treated currently as waste in some Member States due to the low price.

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

July 11: Cogeca pub quizz

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

July 13: Weekly Pocc/ccc

July 16: EU Farm Ministers meeting

July 22 2018: Estonian FarmOpenDay

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

September 23-25: EU Farm Ministers informal meeting focusing on Future CAP and Rural Development

October 10-12: Copa and Cogeca Congress