

Weekly Newsflash

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

EU Farm Ministers are set to discuss the EU Commission proposal on the future CAP and the agricultural market situation for dairy and pigmeat on June 18-19. Copa and Cogeca are set to outline 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. **Ministers reaction so far?** Many Ministers apart from Sweden have opposed 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 like Germany and Slovenia have also warned that the proposals do not amount to simplification. Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Czech Republic and Estonia opposed the ceiling on direct support.

Copa and Cogeca debate future CAP with Commissioner Hogan

Farm and coop Presidents from across the EU debated with EU Farm Commissioner Hogan this week the new proposal on the future CAP, warning that they are “very disappointed” with the proposal. It is unacceptable that more and more is being asked of farmers for less and less money. We want a strong, competitive and sustainable CAP in the future, with **common and simple rules** across the EU. 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. It is vital to ensure that there is no renationalization of the CAP, and it is backed up by a stronger budget. In response, **Mr Hogan** said we would work together to improve the proposal. He agreed that the budget share for the CAP has steadily been cut and he would see how this could be reversed politically. **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. **Next steps:** Copa and Cogeca will outline our views at EU Farm Ministers next meeting on June 18/19.

Copa and Cogeca discuss difficult sugar market

Faced with high stocks, low prices and bad weather conditions, farm unions and coops across the EU complained of the difficult situation on the sugar market this week at their praesidia meeting and are looking at action. Sweden was also badly hit in particular by bad weather on the cereals and oilseeds market.

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 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

Copa and Cogeca outline views on agreement reached on EU renewable energy policy post-2020

Reacting to the agreement struck in the trilogue talks on the updated EU renewable energy policy post 2020, Copa and Cogeca believe that it goes in the right direction for a long term stable policy but there are still points of concern.

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen stressed “The compromise deal gives a positive signal. It is good news that the EU will have an overall target for renewable energy of 32% and a binding blending obligation on fuel suppliers of at least 14%, without technological restrictions, and that the maximum accountable share for crop-based biofuels used in transport will be maintained at 7% until 2030. It will give our biofuel producers a long term stable framework to work with”. “We regret however that EU crop-based biofuels will not have the opportunity to expand because the phasing out of the use of palm oil has been postponed, especially since EU crop-based biofuels generate protein rich co-products for use in feed which livestock producers need. They also play a bigger role in stabilising agricultural markets facing increasing volatility. It is disappointing too that the Directive still contains artificial multipliers which gives the wrong impression of the true environmental impact”, warned Pesonen.

For **forest bioenergy**, it is good news that the Directive takes account of existing legislation on forests and forest management in the EU and in Member States. “We need to make sure that implementation of the updated Directive will ensure stability for current and planned investments and simplification both at EU and national level. We are disappointed that Member States have the possibility to include additional sustainability requirements for forest bioenergy”, said Pesonen

EU agrees duties to impose on list of USA agricultural imports in trade dispute on steel: Copa and Cogeca regret escalation of dispute

After the USA announced additional duties of 25% and 10% on steel and aluminium imports, the EU Commission endorsed a decision to impose additional duties on a list of agricultural imports from the USA notified to the World Trade Organisation. The American products include rice, maize, sweetcorn, whiskey, orange juice, tobacco. Copa and Cogeca expressed serious concerns about a trade war escalating as it could have a severe impact on the agriculture sector in the EU and worldwide. Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen said “We are very concerned that this could escalate and have a negative impact on the EU agriculture sector. The USA is a major client for EU agri-food products. We have a stable trade relationship with them on agriculture which we do not want to jeopardise. We call for moderation in the talks between the two sides to ensure that farmers do not end up paying the price of politics”.

EU/Japan: Copa and Cogeca urge members to send success stories by June 15

Copa and Cogeca support the EU-Japan FTA deal as it offers great opportunities for the EU agri-food sector. The promotion and communication teams of DG AGRI are preparing material to promote as much as possible the agri outcome of the EU-Japan EPA. They are looking to highlight, in their promotion/communication actions, success stories of European exporters/producers. So don't miss your last chance to send us your story by June 15!

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 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

Copa and Cogeca attend Polish event

Copa and Cogeca and all our members enjoyed great Polish food and drink to celebrate the 100 th Anniversary of the restoration of Poland's Independence this week organized by the

Polish Federation of Agricultural Producers (FBZPR) and Vice-President of Copa Marian Sikora at the Polish Permanent Representation.



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

June 18-19: EU Agriculture Council

June 19: European Parliament event on classical swine fever

June 20-21: European Parliament Agriculture Committee

June 21: Copa and Cogeca cereal and oilseeds working party

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