

Weekly Newsflash

A weekly newsletter to the member organisations of Copa-Cogeca
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Future of Food and Farming: Copa and Cogeca outline views to EU Farm Ministers and hold press event

Copa and Cogeca urged EU Farm Ministers at their Informal meeting this week for a real simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the future, with measures to attract young blood to the sector. We also outlined our views to over 20 journalists from the European agri-journalist association (ENAJ) in Sofia.

Speaking in Bulgaria, Copa Vice-President Joe Healy warned “The EU Commission’s proposals do not amount to simplification. We are very concerned about the impact of them. We call on Ministers to ensure that the next CAP provides simpler and clearer rules and policy tools for farmers and cooperatives to use. It must also remain a truly common policy. We cannot accept any renationalization of the CAP or any capping or degressivity of payments as proposed by the Commission.”

“With farmers’ incomes at 40% of average earnings, ring-fencing desperately needed direct support towards climate change objectives under the proposal is also not acceptable. This comes on top of pressure from agricultural concessions being negotiated by the EU in the bilateral trade negotiations”, added Healy. Copa and Cogeca nevertheless welcome the Commission move to put more focus on smart farming and on measures to help farmers better manage risk. In this respect, broadband access is vital so that farmers and cooperatives can make use of the new technologies. It will also make it more attractive for young people to join the sector. Research and innovation and advisory services driven by farmers’ needs must also be a priority. **Media:** good response.



Ministers reactions: Like Copa and Cogeca, many Ministers apart from Sweden oppose the proposed cuts in the EU budget. Together, with Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Finland, Greece, France signed a declaration opposing the cuts. Some also highlighted in particular that the 15% cut in rural development funds is too much. Many Ministers like Germany and Slovenia also warned that the proposals do not amount to simplification. Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Czech Republic and Estonia opposed the ceiling on direct support. They also debated the Presidency's paper which underlines the importance of generation renewal. More to ensure access to land

and credit for young farmers and to increase the effectiveness of the current tools and to improve the image of the sector was highlighted.

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. Additional transfers from Pillar I to Pillar II can be made up to an extra 15% for environment & climate measure and 2% for measures targeting young farmers. It also includes compulsory capping of direct payments to farmers at 100, 000 euro with degressivity starting at 60,000 euro which Copa and Cogeca oppose as well as some Ministers. 40% of direct decoupled payments will focus on meeting environment and climate objectives in Pillar I. The top up for young farmers remains at 2% and start up support for young farmers will be increased to 100, 000 euros. Coupled support will be limited to 10% (+2% for protein crops) of direct payments.

Next steps: The proposal will be discussed at Copa and Cogeca's praesidia on June 14/15 and it will be discussed at EU Farm Ministers next meeting on June 18/19 in Luxembourg which Copa and Cogeca will attend.

No agreement in EU trade talks with Mercosur this week

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen told journalists in Sofia this week that trade talks with the Latin American trade bloc Mercosur are far from being finalized, after there was another round of negotiations this week. Copa and Cogeca have also sent a letter to EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom 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. 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. **Media:** good response

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 this week 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".

Biofuels: ambitious share of agriculture and forest biomass in energy mix top priority A priority for new Chairman of Copa and Cogeca's Biofuel Working Party Alexander Bachler is to boost the share of agriculture and forest biomass in the EU renewable energy mix

post 2020, and to have a stable long-term policy for crop-based biofuels. Mr Bachler from the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture (LKÖ) said “Biofuels have multiple advantages in terms of decarbonizing the transport sector and reducing our dependence on imports. The co-product is also an important source of protein in feed. A key priority for me during my two year mandate will consequently be to have an ambitious, stable long-term policy for biofuels to maximize the potential of biofuels, with a higher share of agriculture and forest biomass in heating and cooling”.

“To achieve this, the EU needs to have a binding blending obligation on fuel suppliers of at least 14%, without technological restrictions, in the EU’s renewable energy Directive which is currently being negotiated. The EU also needs to maintain at 7 % until 2030 the maximum share for crop-based biofuels used and countable for transport energy goals”, added Bachler. Mr Bachler from Austria is also chairman of the Austrian standardization committee K 266 on sustainable production of renewable energy feedstocks and bio-based products which is mirroring CEN TC 383 and CEN TC 411. He will be supported by two Vice Presidents Ms Astrid Rewerts from Germany (Deutscher Bauernverband e.V) and Mr Claude Soudé from France (Federation of Oilseed Producers).

Copa and Cogeca welcome ambitious EU research and innovation programme

Copa and Cogeca welcomed today release of the EU’s proposed future Framework Programme - Horizon Europe - for research and innovation. It is key for tackling major societal and global challenges, especially to find solutions that will help the EU agriculture and forestry sectors reach the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the Paris Climate Change Agreement. It is also vital to meet the needs of a growing world population set to reach 10 billion by 2050.

EU Budget: InvestEU Programme to support jobs, growth and innovation in Europe

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposed this week to create the InvestEU Programme, bringing EU budget financing in the form of loans and guarantees under one roof. InvestEU will integrate the multitude of financial programmes currently available and expand the successful model of the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan.

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

Copa and Cogeca have welcomed the EU-Japan FTA deal as it offers great opportunities for the EU agri-food sector. The promotion and communication teams of DG AGRI want 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 please send us your story !

New edition of Copa and Cogeca’s 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.

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:

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.leafuk.org; www.farmsunday.org ; www.nfuonline.com

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

Press event: Copa and Cogeca invite you to a press event on the EU's renewable energy Directive with leading experts

WHAT: In the run up to a decision on the EU's renewable energy Directive which is currently being negotiated, the European farmers and agri-cooperatives organisation Copa and Cogeca, representing 23 million farmers and 22, 000 agri-cooperatives, will hold a press brief with key experts to discuss our position on the issue and to explain the multiple benefits of biofuels for the environment, the economy, growth and jobs. Come and join us to hear more on **June 11:**

15.00 h at Copa and Cogeca Secreteriat , 61 Rue de Treves, 1040 Brussels **RSVP:**

Amanda.Cheesley@Copa-Cogeca.eu

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

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June 10 2018: Open Farm Sunday (England, Scotland & Wales): www.leafuk.org; www.farmsunday.org ; www.nfuonline.com

June 11: Copa and Cogeca press conference on biofuels

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