

From: [redacted]
Sent: mardi 16 octobre 2018 16:56
To: [redacted]
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Subject: UNITAB 2018 - tobacco growers - Brussels

Please find below a short report of the 36th congress of UNITAB (European association of tobacco growers, including national growers associations of BE, BG, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, PL, PT, ES and Switzerland) Brussels 15 and 16 October

Participants: +/- 300 persons, mainly tobacco growers,

This congress was a good opportunity to collect some information on the sector:

Some statistical data for 2017 in Europe:

- 36 814 farms (vs 57 000 in 2015)
- 75 000 ha (vs 81 000 in 2015); EL 19157 ha; IT 16091 ha, PL 11093 ha, ES ~10500 ha and BG ~10500 ha
- 175 779 tons (65 % of Virginia (flue cured))

In general the production continue to decrease but it is stabilising in some countries/regions that have developed new products for niche markets (e.g.: Chicha), quality products (e.g.: grown under IPM, less pesticide residues, traceability)

World production of cigarette in 2017: 5 894 billions (declining since 2012)

Tobacco sector faces several challenges; in particular:

- Raw tobacco taxation: some countries have put excises on a certain type of raw tobacco and excise on raw tobacco is contemplated as a way to limit black market;
- COP8 (conference of the Parties – Framework Convention on Tobacco Control FCTC): tobacco growing is seen as having devastating effects on environment (rem: this might be true in large scale productions in Asia or Africa, but not in EU)

ELTI (European Leaf Tobacco Interbranch Organization) is the first and only transnational interbranch organisation recognised at EU level. Recently created, ELTI should help to stabilize the production of leaf tobacco in MS.

A debate was organised on the CAP reform proposal and the new possibilities for the sector. Classical complaints were raised: request for coupled payment, stop to discrimination against tobacco. Sector seems interested in specific sectoral programmes.

[redacted] represented the Commission and had to recall several times that tobacco growers were treated like the other farmers and decoupling is part of the CAP evolution. There would be no support from any institution (Commission, Council or EP) on any reversion of the current status quo.

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*... n auteur et ne saurait en aucun cas être considéré comme une
... ent à la personne à laquelle il est adressé et pourrait contenir
... ssage par erreur, merci de m'en avvertir le plus rapidement*

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... whom it is addressed and may contain confidential information. If
... e as soon as possible*