Brussels, 15 February 2018
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MEETING ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018 WITH A DELEGATION FROM COPA COGECA

Participants:

- Copa Cogeca: Pekka Pesonen (Secretary General),
- DG AGRI: Jerzy Plewa (DG), Jens Schap (Director G), Michael Niehjahr (Director I),
- (I4),
- (C1)

Copa Cogeca raised the following topics:

1. **Brexit**: Copa Cogeca is worried about future market developments
2. **Mercosur negotiations**: Copa Cogeca has concerns on consequences for the agricultural sector
3. **MFF proposals**: Copa Cogeca appreciates acknowledgement of value of EU agriculture by CSR Oettinger and efforts to motivate MS to agree on a reasonable EU budget
4. **CAP Communication**:
   - Copa Cogeca generally welcomes Communication
   - The following points raise concerns:
     - Enhanced eco-conditionality: Copa Cogeca enquired about further details (in particular on possible impact on farms now exempted from greening) to prepare the discussions for its upcoming Presidia meeting; it also recalled the need to keep a common approach; it expressed favourable position on the use of new technologies and on the principle of crop rotation.
     - Two pillar approach: Copa Cogeca expressed need to keep distinction between the two pillars
     - Capping: Copa Cogeca expressed concerns about capping
5. **CDGs**:
   - Would like to meet I4 for practical information on AGM
   - Considers that the CDG on Tobacco should not be abolished; it is still an important sector and the Arable Crops CDG is not the right forum, they say
   - Refers to the criticisms of non-economic NGOs in the CDGs, that COPA-COGECA finances the travel expenses of their meetings through the CDG meetings. COPA-COGECA says that their organisation does not get direct COM support (as it is the case with other organisations, they say); and that the travel reimbursement is an incentive for COPA-COGECA members to actively participate at the meetings.

Ref. Ares(2018)885537 - 15/02/2018
Ref. Ares(2020)973926 - 14/02/2020
• AGREES THAT CDG MEETINGS WITH NO RELEVANT AGENDA ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE ORGANISED
• QUESTIONS THE ROLE OF NON-ECONOMIC NGO IN CDG MEETINGS
• WOULD LIKE A WORKSHOP COPA-COGECA AND AGRI TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CDGs

DG AGRI replied respectively:

1. **Brexit:** DG AGRI is aware of concerns and is closely working with other Commission services (TF50) to ensure smooth progress

2. **Mercosur:** DG AGRI is aware of the challenging negotiations and closely working with other Commission services; solution yet to be found for EU offensive interests, protection of sensitive products and GIs

3. **CAP Communication:**
   • DG AGRI welcomes general agreement of Copa Cogeca on the Communication
     - Current context required to show value added of CAP, to simplify it and to make it more result-orientated
     - What is aimed for is more subsidiarity and more simplification (e.g. Task Force for CAP plan, reduction of EU controls)
     - There will be no re-nationalisation given EU level elements (common objectives, common indicators, approval)

   • DG AGRI reaction on specific points:
     - Enhanced eco-conditionality: Enhanced environmental and climate ambition is the objective, but what is aimed for is not to completely overhaul current system (enhanced GAEC, voluntary elements to persist); Member States do already now have flexibility and will have opportunities for even better targeting in future; details and their assessment are still under discussion.
     - Capping: It is part on the MFF-discussion and not to be prejudged; there are several factors to be taken into account (e.g. political positions on small farms, contribution to labour)

4. **CDGs:**
   • Need to rationalise the number of CDG meetings.
   • Non-economic NGO are also part of CDGs; more technical discussions take place in other for a (e.g. market observatories)

It was agreed to aim at further exchanges of information, starting with an explanatory meeting for better understanding of the new CDG rules.

"e-signed"

Copies: Jerzy Plewa (DG), Jens Schap (Director G), Michael Niejahr (Director I), (I4), (I4), (C1), (C1)