MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Meeting of Commissioner Wojciechowski with the leadership of COPA-COGECA on 16 February 2021 (virtual meeting)

Participants:

COPA-COGECA: Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b

European Commission: Commissioner Wojciechowski, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b, Article4(1)b

Take away messages

- exchange of views, showing diverging views on the future of European agriculture

- COPA-COGECA leaders expressed worry about the combined effects of Green Deal targets, a CAP reform with large eco-schemes and trade deals (Mercosur) that negatively affect EU farming.

- Commissioner Wojciechowski defended the Green Deal and the eco-schemes, sketched future perspectives through short supply chains and underlined that the overall picture of trade is positive for EU farmers.

Out of scope

Commissioner Wojciechowski flagged the Commission’s positions on a number of key issues in relation to competition law and cooperation among farmers in the Common Market Organisation, on the CAP Strategic Plan regulation, in particular on eco-schemes, indicators and on controls. He flagged the importance of avoiding having both a compliance and performance system.
underlined European farmers counted on Commissioner Wojciechowski to be the voice of farmers in the discussion on the future of the CAP and in particular in the trilogues.

- **Eco-schemes.** She recalled the very considerable efforts farmers make for the environment, for animal welfare and for the countryside via conditionality (since 2004) and greening (since 2014). She underlined that 20 or 30% of direct support for incentive based eco-schemes could mean an important loss for farmers not benefitting from these schemes. She called on eco-schemes to be practicable and accessible, underlining that the Commission should listen to farmers who have to execute these schemes and not just to many on the sidelines with opinions on the future of agriculture.

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focused on eco-schemes and environmental targets.

- **Eco-schemes** are a complete change, he said, which could lead to farmers losing 20 to 30% of their basic payment if they cannot manage to deliver an eco-scheme. He recalled enough food had been produced during the global pandemic situation and that this must continue to be the case.

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On eco-schemes, he dismissed fears, explaining that 20% or 30% funding would be advantageous for farmers. The Commission paper with types of eco-schemes is very concrete with examples, which will ensure considerable harmonization between MS. In particular, he expressed satisfaction with the support from the European Parliament for inclusion of support for animal welfare in these eco-schemes.
Out of scope

Out of scope

Electronically signed

Article4(1)b
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