


CC(21)2575:1 –  Art 4.1(b) Privacy

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski  
Commissioner for Agriculture  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## RE: Copa and Cogeca views for the next trilogue on CMO

Dear Commissioner,

Copa and Cogeca take note of the progress made on the Common Market Organisation regulation and wish you all success for a timely conclusion of the CAP negotiations.

Copa and Cogeca would like to share with you some of our views regarding the possible topics of discussion for the next trilogue meeting on CMO on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Copa and Cogeca oppose any weakening of the **market management measures** in the form of **public intervention**. The proposal to remove the automatic triggering of public intervention for common wheat is a step in the wrong direction. Public intervention requires a review of reference price in order to take into account higher production costs. We also reject the proposal to **delete** the fixed-price system for buying-in under public intervention and the quantitative limitations for buying-in at fixed price. In this context, we consider that making use of the fixed price system before activating the tendering system gives more certainty to operators in times of crisis. Relying purely on the tendering system might not be beneficial for the overall market evolution.

We support the provision according to which when fixing the level of the public intervention price, the Council shall use objective and transparent criteria, which shall be in line with the objective of ensuring a fair standard of living for the agricultural community.

When it comes to the general principles on disposal from public intervention, we support increasing transparency on the use of public intervention, but this should not go contrary to data protection.

Regarding **private storage**, we welcome the eligibility of table olives and rice for the aid for private storage. The table olive sector is closely linked to the olive oil sector, which already benefits of the system of aid for private storage as instrument to regulate the supply and acting as safety net. As a result, the private storage measure should be open to table olives. Dehydrated alfalfa should be eligible for the private storage aid mechanism in the event of a crisis in the purchasing capacity of livestock farmers (dairy farmers, for example) and we regret it is not included in the list of sectors eligible for private storage.

Copa and Cogeca fully support the principle of market transparency and information but reject the idea of a single EU observatory, merging all existing ones. Considering the specificities of sectors as well as maintaining a practical approach we would rather broaden the scope of the EU observatory and extend it to other sectors.

When speaking about measures to address **exceptional market disturbances**, we cannot support the proposed voluntary reduction scheme tied together with the measures to stabilise production in periods of severe market disturbances by imposing a levy on those producers increasing production. This does not take into consideration the differences between sectors, nor provides an indication on where the financing to cover these interventions would come from, and as such is unacceptable. The European Commission has indeed the flexibility, according to the current legal basis, to adopt delegated acts to take the necessary measures in case of market disturbance in a particular sector.

Moreover, activating the exceptional market measures before the market management measures may diminish the EU COM role in ensuring the public safety nets.

The proposed possibility given of adapting the entry scheme for fruit and vegetables through consultation with third countries that export to the Union is a step in the right direction.

Our external trade must be based on balanced, fair and transparent rules to avoid distortion of competition. **Agri-food imports from third countries** must comply at farm level, as a general rule, with all our production standards given the need to ensure fair competition between EU and imported products. During market crisis, imports must be managed according to consumer demand.

When it comes to **dairy denominations**, we welcome the strengthening of the dairy terms. Copa and Cogeca are very supportive of the protection of dairy terms in order to avoid misleading practices, ensure fair competition and transparency for consumers when it comes to nutritional properties and characteristics of the product. Copa and Cogeca also strongly support the protection of **meat denominations** at EU level, in order to avoid misleading practices. Moreover, this should be extended to other types of agricultural products, for the same reasons. The use of the same term by products of different food categories should be avoided for the sake of fair competition and transparency towards consumers.

Copa and Cogeca are at your disposal to further clarify our thinking on these aspects.

Faithfully yours,

Personal Data

Personal Data

CC : Mr Wolfgang Bartscher, Director-General of DG Agri