



CAB meeting with Danish Agriculture and Food Council

16/07/2019; 10:30-11:30

Participants:

- [Art. 4.1(b) - privacy]
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Proposed agenda:

- CAP and the MFF
- How do you see the situation after the EP election, upcoming new commission?
- Reflection on the green architecture
- Help to the Irish beef producers /how do others come into consideration
- Mercosur-agreement
- 2030 - vision to become climate neutral in 2050
- Strategy on Research & Innovation
- Project on protein from grass to feed for pigs

Report from the meeting:

- Introductory exchange of views on Ursula von der Leyen's address at the European Parliament
- **Research and Innovation:** The representatives of Danish Agriculture Council briefly presented the Danish Protein Innovation (DPI) and its document including R&I needs, in particular as regards using grass as protein source for pigs.

highlighted that a lot of work is already advancing in this R&I area and presented to the guests an article “*Squeezing value out of grass*” published in the Irish Farmers Journal about a successful EIP-AGRI Operational Group Biorefinery GLAS. This is a demonstration project of a new small-scale biorefinery that is capable of processing two tonnes of grass per hour to extract more of its valuable components. The article will be forwarded to the guests.

- **The Danish Agriculture and Food Council Strategy “Climate-netural 2050”:**

answered that it is important to utilize well grasslands and forests. Ireland needs a balanced approach which involves both woodland and grassland. It cannot rely too heavily on tree-planting to combat climate change. This is for several reasons – among them historical, cultural and emotional associations.

- **Situation after the EP elections:** informed the guests that Commissioner Hogan has been appointed by the Irish government for the new Commission.
- **Mercosur-agreement:** asked whether the Mercosur deal will be fair for the EU (and Danish) agricultural sector? He was particularly concerned about the sectors of beef, poultry and sugar.

answered that:

- the figure of 99 000 tonnes for the beef TRQ was no surprise (and is much lower than the 169 000 tonnes mooted in 2004 for the EU-15);
- in the EU-Mercosur deal, for the first time a trade deal includes safeguards concerning TRQs – so that if imports lead to (proved) excessive price pressure, remedial action can be taken;
- Brazil consumes most of its agricultural produce, and is therefore unlikely to upgrade all its processing facilities to allow them to export;
- if the Mercosur members fail to meet their obligations under the deal – including with regard to the Paris Agreement on climate change – they risk seeing the deal invalidated;
- the deal involves offensive as well as defensive interests for the EU, and the next Commission will have a responsibility to make this point clearly to a partly sceptical public;
- in any case, the ratification by national parliaments which is required for the “mixed” Mercosur deal is likely to take a long time.

- **Aid package for Irish beef producers:** expressed concern about what would happen on EU markets if Irish beef cattle numbers were not reduced under the terms of the Brexit-related support package. He asked if farmers in other Member States – including DK – might receive support if they too were hit hard by Brexit.

replied that:

- under the terms of the aid package, there had to be a reduction in Irish suckler cow numbers, or other adjustments in light of the need to combat climate change;
- in reality, IE's greenhouse gas emissions could not be brought down without reductions to its overall cattle numbers;
- the calculations made when money was put aside for a potential softening of the impact of Brexit took into account potential Danish needs; Danish farmers could therefore potentially be offered support if a clear need arose.