PR(21)901:1 – FG/na To the members of the Copa Praesidium

 Brussels, 8th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the President of Copa, Mrs Christiane Lambert, I have the pleasure of inviting you to the next **Copa Praesidium** **video** **meeting** which will be held via video-conference.

**Agenda**

**Thursday 18th February 2021**

**via KUDO, in all Copa-Cogeca working languages**

**4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Copa-Cogeca Praesidia)**

1. Preparation of the exchange of views with the Members of the European Parliament regarding negotiation of the future CAP,the current trilogues and Green Deal

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| * *The CAP and the Green Deal must set a production objective for the European Union to guarantee food for everyone, for all markets, all budgets by being faultless in terms of traceability and health requirements. Europe must protect the act of producing and not commit the agricultural sector solely to pursuing a path of reduction.*
* *Over the past few decades, European agriculture has decoupled environmental impact from production growth, a trend which should continue. We need to pursue a path in step with science and progress to facilitate a transition towards even more competitive, low-carbon agricultural systems that meet the challenges of climate change and that firmly follow a logic of sustainable growth taking into account environmental and social issues.*
* *The EU Green Deal’s vast horizontal scope covers farming and forests from several angles. Agriculture and forestry should be seen as part of the solution when it comes to combatting climate change. As one of the most prone sectors to the impacts of shifting weather patterns, European agriculture and forests needs constant innovation to increase productivity and farming incomes with optimized use of natural resources.*
* *Imposing some of the requirements at any cost is simply not acceptable for the farming community. We are still waiting for an impact assessment on the European Green Deal (EGD)strategies with regard to agriculture.*
* *The CAP reform process continues and the three Institutions are now fully engaged in the trilogues process. Copa-Cogeca has been communicating to the Institutions prior to each trilogue meeting. The relevant Working Parties continue their work to fine-tune the messages in view of the advance of negotiations. The document* [*PAC(21)952 (rev.1)*](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164335)*lists some of the main issues currently being discussed in the trilogies.*
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1. Exchange of views with Ulrike Müller, Eric Andrieu and Peter Jahr (Members of the European Parliament, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development) regarding negotiation of the future CAP,the current trilogues and Green Deal

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| * *European farmers and agri-cooperatives hope that a frank, democratic, constructive dialogue will continue throughout the trilogues to achieve a good outcome during the first semester of 2021.*
* *We expect the European Institutions and, in particular, the European Parliament to defend a competitive agricultural sector. For Copa and Cogeca sustainability in a balanced approach (between the economic, environmental and social pillars) is a key priority. Higher than this we only rank simplification since we consider that the CAP has become over the years, too complex for farmers and administrations (both European and national).*
* *The document* [*PAC(21)952 (rev.1)*](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164335) *lists some of the main issues currently being discussed in the trilogues that could be used in the exchange with the EP rapporteurs.*
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**Copa Praesidium**

1. Approval of B point:
	1. Copa and Cogeca's draft position on the Specific Protection Goal (SPG) Options for the EFSA Review of the Bee Guidance Document (2013-2021) [PHY(20)8317 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2161547)

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| • ***Protection of bees is politically important and it enjoys wide support amongst citizens and farmers alike.*** *Copa-Cogeca is involved with the Stakeholder Group for the revision of the EFSA Bee Guidance document since 2019.**• The previous proposed version of the Guidance, developed in 2013 had not enough solid scientific basis and therefore, it was not agreed by the Member States.**• We need a regulatory framework that is evidence-based, predictable and consistent with a proper risk assessment process.**• The draft position paper on the EFSA review on the Bee Guidance is now put for approval in the present meeting.**•* ***Approval as a B-point.***  |

**Friday 19th February 2021**

**9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m**

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the draft minutes of the Copa Praesidium meeting held on 26th and 27th November 2020 [PR(21)611 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2163975)
3. Report of the activities of the Copa President and the Secretary General [PR(21)826 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164200)
4. Exchange of views with Maria do Céu Antunes (Minister of Agriculture of Portugal, President of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council) regarding the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency (CAP reform, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, Climate change, Environment, Trade negotiations) [POCC(21)9925 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2163249)

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| * *CAP: The Presidency will prioritise the negotiations for the reform of the common agricultural policy and will strive to reach a political agreement.*
* *Rural development: They will focus on the initiatives of the European Green Deal, which highlight the close link between food production, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation.*
* *Food security and safety: Particular attention will be paid to increasing food security and to the sustainability of supply chains.*
* *Agriculture innovation: The Presidency will give priority to innovation, knowledge transfer and the digitalisation of the agri-food sector to ensure sustainable management of resources, including soil and water, and to contribute to the maintenance and development of farming activity and demographic stability.*
* *Trade: the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency will be to support the strengthening of a rules-based multilateral trading system and a modernised World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as a nework of ambitious and balanced bilateral trade agreements with key partners.*
* *Council President will speak Portuguese that will be made available during the whole morning.*
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1. Exchange of views with Michel Barnier (Special Adviser to President von der Leyen) regarding the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement [BX(21)9861 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2163184), [NCN(21)221 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2163571)

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| * *On 24th December 2020, the European Commission reached an agreement with the United Kingdom on the terms of its future cooperation with the European Union. Once ratified by the Council of the EU and the UK Parliament, this agreement entered into provisional application on 1st January (until 28th February). The European Parliament has been asked to give its consent to the agreement. The draft Trade and Cooperation Agreement consists of three main pillars: free trade agreement, new partnership in security and a horizontal agreement on governance.*
* *The Free Trade Agreement**not only covers trade in goods and services, but also a broad range of other areas in the EU's interest. These include investment, competition, state aid, tax transparency, air and road transport, energy and sustainability, fisheries, data protection, and social security coordination.*
* *It provides for zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin.*
* *Both parties have committed to ensuring a robust level playing field by maintaining high levels of protection.*
* *The EU and the UK agreed on a new framework for the joint management of fish stocks in EU and UK waters.*
* *On transport, the agreement provides for continued and sustainable air, road, rail and maritime connectivity, though market access falls below what the Single Market offers.*
* *On 25th December, the European Commission put forward its proposal for a Brexit Adjustment Reserve**with**an overall budget of €5 billion. The reserve will support businesses and employment in affected sectors.*
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1. Exchange of views on international trade [BILAT(21)644 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164011)
	* + ***EU-US relations :*** *FoodDrinkEurope, Celcaa and Coopa-Cogeca met with Head of Cabinet DG trade on the EU strategy that could lead to the* ***removal of all non- aircraft tariffs*** *and the engagement with the new US administration (new EU-US partnership). Unfortunately, the previous US administration never came back on the EU proposal to suspend tariffs on non-aircraft tariffs. The Commission is now reengaging with the new administration on this topic, but also on multiple other issues such as olive tariffs, digital tax, steel and aluminium tariffs, etc. For the moment USTR has decided to maintain the list of products with tariffs.*
		+ *Copa and Cogeca also informed on our views regarding the coherence between Green Deal and the new trade strategy – need for an impact assessment of the overall Green Deal package. The adoption of the trade policy review is expected to take place on February 17.*
		+ ***EU-Mercosur:*** The Portuguese Presidency is looking for possible avenues in order to accelerate the ratification of the EU-Mercosur Agreement***.*** *According to the Commission, aadditional legitimate concerns on environmental issues will have to be addressed and resolved through additional declarations, without reopening the negotiation. To this end the Commission and Mercosur intensified contacts. Copa-Cogeca, together with AVEC and CIBE, published a press release and video on 3 main reasons why we cannot support the current text nor avoiding well established ratification procedure.*
		+ *For additional information on the state of play of trade negotiations (Australia, New Zealand, Chile, China, WTO, etc), please consult* [*BILAT(21)644 (rev.1)*](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164011)
2. Exchange of views on market situation [COV(20)8671 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2161933), [COM(21)417 (rev.1)](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2163775)
* *The outlook for the* ***EU agriculture market*** *is negative for the next three months due to the reinforcement of certain restrictions in Member States, trade developments (e.g. impacting wine, cheeses, processed goods, olives, potatoes, biofuel…) or animal health-related issues (e.g. avian influenza, ASF). This is due to changes in consumption (e.g. closure of the food services sector and the repercussions for high-value products), trade dynamics.*
* *For the moment, there is no major disruption, nor impact on the market or prices to report due to the EU and UK deal. But the volumes of trade were not representative so far. We need to continuing monitoring the situation, given the huge number of risk factors. This market monitoring would be also necessary to benefit from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. For additional information on the impact per sector, please consult* [*COV(21)770 (rev.1)*](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/downloadThread.aspx?threadID=2164142)
* ***ASF*** *- New infections in wildboars are continuing to occur on a daily basis and progression towards west. The hopes for recognition of regionalization by trade partners that receive substantial volumes of EU pigmeat are vanishing, except of Thailand which already recognized the regionalization. German authorities believe there are also some chances for regionalization recognition by Japan and Singapure.*
* *There has been no substantial changes in the* ***pigmeat market****– very low prices under cost of production – in spite of some improvements in the slaughtering capacity (stocking capacity and the slaughter weights are reduced) as well as slight improvements of the piglet prices.*
* *The WP on pigmeat met on 5th February. The outlook is negative for the next three months, even though there is hope from the market that due to possible recovery of the economy and traditional summer high season (BBQ) the situation may improve towards the summer.*
* *German authorities have informed about a case of a truck which was stopped on the highway close to Hessen in the end of December. It was transporting about 500 kg on meat.*
	+ - *3 samples of pork were positive on ASF. This underlines the importance of strict restrictions in affected areas, as the virus is extremely persistent.*
		- ***Avian Influenza*** *has been spreading around the Europe. The number of new farms affected is decreasing. Some countries are already releasing the measures. At the* moment *the WP does not plan to ask for any measures.*
		- *The European Commission has decided to prolong until 31 December 2021* ***the State aid Temporary Framework*** *adopted on 19 March 2020 to support the economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. It has been decided as well to increase the aid cieling to EUR 250 000 per undertaking active in the primary prodcution of agricultural products.*
		- *The WPs are invited to* ***report on the market situation*** *(including sanitary situation, implementation of EU\_UK trade deal, Covid-19 and any other market relevant development) and come out with their recommendation on measures to support the sector.*

11. Any other business

Please confirm your participation in the meetings by clicking on [this link](https://form.jotform.com/210391924051347).

Please indicate clearly your full name and the name of your organisation when you log into the KUDO video-meeting system.

Yours sincerely,

Pekka Pesonen

Secretary General