



CONSEIL EUROPEEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS

European Council of Young Farmers – Europäischer Rat der Junglandwirte

CEJA E-info 16

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CEJA News

New Secretary General of CEJA



Warm greetings to all European Young Farmers!

Let me introduce myself: my name is Pascale Rouhier and I grew up in a rural area near Besançon, Franche-Comté in France. I studied Political Sciences at the University of Lille and later gained a Master degree in International Trade Law and Economics in Switzerland. Since then I have been working in Brussels for the last 10 years in agricultural, trade, and food safety issues. Amongst various roles I worked at ASSUC, the European sugar exporters association as Secretary General and for a large European food company. I'm very proud to join CEJA and I really look forward to

work with you all so that young farmers have a strong representation and an effective voice in Europe.

Other CEJA Activities

CEJA attends monthly policy committee meeting at COPA-COGECA

On Thursday 6th May the Copa-Cogeca secretariat held their monthly POCC-CCC meeting in Brussels and new CEJA Secretary General Pascale Rouhier attended together with



Communications Officer Daniel Puglisi. The agenda looked at COPA-COGECA's new CAP position as well as a range of proposals and topics including the EU code of good labelling practices and a presentation of the Eurobarometer study on citizen's attitudes towards agriculture and the CAP. Representatives of COPA COGECA's farm organisations, some whose youth sections or affiliated organisations are also part of CEJA, were present to add their input to the discussions. It was a good first meeting for Pascale to introduce herself to relevant farm stakeholders in the Brussels arena and exchange initial contacts.

COPA COGECA released their CAP position on Monday: [click here](#) to read it.

EXPO2015- An Agricultural themed world exposition?



On 4th May the European Parliament hosted the event 'EXPO 2015-A challenge for Europe, a hope for the planet'. Following an invitation to CEJA, Communications Officer Daniel Puglisi attended the event on behalf of the secretariat.

Around 30 MEP's (many from ComAgri) were at the meeting as well as a substantial amount of European and international media. MEP Carlo Fidanza, a substitute member of ComAgri chaired the meeting alongside the Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti and Minister for European Affairs of the Italian Government, Mr. Andrea Ronchi.

The theme of the next EXPO will be **Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life** and be devoted to sustainable development with a strong focus on agriculture. Ms Moratti was keen to point out that while the EXPO this year in Shanghai is a su, the future event would have a large green area. **6 hectares** will be devoted to **agro-ecosystems** with some **farm projects** as part of the exposition.

For further information visit: <http://en.expo2015.org/ht/en/theme.html>



CALL TO THE MEMBERS!!!

Commissioner Ciolos has officially opened the public debate on the CAP

The aim is to listen to all voices of our society and the Commission intends to ask for our cooperation. How? The Commission has established an ad hoc website (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/contributions/index_en.htm) where everybody such as citizens, think tanks or stakeholders in agriculture can publish their own ideas on the CAP.

CEJA is one of the major stakeholders in EU agricultural policy and we need to send these ideas in by the 30th May in a **10 page paper** (1500 characters per page) where we indicate our position on the future of CAP post 2013, but on the website only a two-page summary will be published. If we want to make our voice heard we need the ideas of all of you. We already achieved good results during our working group but we still need as many inputs as you can send. To facilitate the dialogue the Commission proposed four questions that need to be addressed:

- 1. Why do we need a European common agricultural policy?**
- 2. What do citizens expect from agriculture?**
- 3. Why reform the CAP?**
- 4. What tools do we need for the CAP of tomorrow?**

Send an email to ceja@ceja.be for further information

Young Farmers Photo Exhibition

Do you look good on your farm? We bet you do! The Young Farmers Photo Exhibition organized by CEJA is a competition for the best photo of **young farmers at work** (not just landscapes) including a little description of the person, type of production, age. The photos will then be used to promote Young Farmers image and the winner will be unveiled at the CEJA Seminar in Belgium, September 2010. Please send in your high resolution photos to CEJA office via email or CD.

Deadline: 31st July 2010.

More details can be found on the website: [click here](#)



Common Agricultural Policy

CAP Transparency

Some 10 out of 27 Member States have provided comprehensive information on farm subsidies and properly complied with the transparency requirements on CAP subsidy payments, according to leading transparency lobby group farmsubsidy.org. Some 6 Member States have provided figures with important deficiencies, 10 fulfil “just 1 of the 3 criteria” and the UK has failed to fulfil the transparency rules. With figures put on-line– DG AGRI officials have expressed “disappointment” with the decision by the UK DEFRA to wait until after general election (May 6) to post the data on-line. Meanwhile, in their first analysis of the available data, Jack Thurston of farmsubsidy.org praised the significant improvement in the Hungarian and Lithuanian subsidy data engines and regretted the arithmetical errors and the difficulties with the Greek website. According to the data collated by the transparency lobby group, there has been a significant increase in the number of ‘farm subsidy millionaires’ in 2009 compared with 2008. The current 1 212 received a combined total of €4.9 billion in 2009, though this figure relates to the overall CAP receipts for 2009, without distinguishing between CAP direct aids, Rural Development payments or other market spending. As was the case in 2008, sugar processing companies dominate the



list of top recipients, inc. 2 French companies Tereos and Saint Louis Sucre heading the overall list, more than likely attributed to the receipt of sugar restructuring aid. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

COPA-COGECA: common objective criteria should underpin direct payments



The budget for direct payments is essential and must be maintained, as in the absence of other complementary support tools, a cut in the direct farm payment under Pillar 1 would have severe consequences on the ability of farmers to provide public benefits, according to a position paper on the future CAP post-2013 published by the farm lobby group COPA-COGECA. Furthermore, it reiterates that “common objective criteria” should underpin such payments, insisting on the need to ensure that active farmers - part-time and full-time – benefit from these payments, rather than non-farming landowners. The 11-page text lists these ‘public benefits’, as the provision of food security, greater market stability for consumers and farmers, food safety, environmental and animal welfare standards, rural employments and the management of over three-quarters of land in the EU. In broad terms, it seeks a “strong CAP, with an adequate budget” and underscores that “any further renationalisation of the CAP would lead to distortions of competition and undermine the single market”. It outlines a series of measures to reinforce farmers’ position in the food chain – i) reinforcement of Producer Organisations; ii) the establishment of codes of conduct to protect farmers from malpractice; iii) enabling POs and cooperatives the chance to collaborate and merge; iv) a review of promotion policy; v) an EU ombudsman to oversee such codes of conduct; vi) the further development of local/farmers’ markets as an additional outlet. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

“No to re-nationalisation” of the CAP, says NFU



The “very real threat” of the re-nationalisation of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2013 needs to be avoided “at all costs”, according to a position paper on the future CAP published by UK National Farmers’ Union (NFU). The 19-page text highlights that the CAP beyond 2013 should focus on maintaining the food production capacity in Europe, provide a “buffer” for farmers against excessive market volatility, increase farmers’ competitiveness and provide incentives to improve environmental performance. It also emphasises that the “most important challenge of all” is to facilitate the creation of a fairer and better functioning agricultural market. Calling for a future CAP that fully embraces the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the paper encourages the maintenance of the 2-pillar approach but demands a “radical overhaul” of the funding of the 2nd Pillar - inc. the phasing out of modulation, in favour of the establishment of “objective criteria” to determine levels of Pillar 2 support. The paper regrets the recent “drift” away from agricultural to wider rural concerns in Pillar 2 and calls for a stricter focus on areas inc. structural adjustment to adapt to open and volatile markets, farm modernisation and innovative, increasing farmers’ resilience to Climate Change and encouraging environmental performance. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

Scope for more ‘gender-proofed’ policy instruments within CAP

The Commission should conduct detailed studies and gather up-to-date and precise statistics on the contribution of women to agriculture and rural areas, in order to put in place the appropriate policy measures, Adriana Bucco, President of COPA’s Women’s Committee stated. Addressing the forum “Women in Sustainable Rural Development”,

organised by the Spanish Presidency in Cáceres (April 27-29), she emphasised the role of women in the growth of farmers' markets, outlining the greater scope for direct sales in the provision of food. Bucco also recalled that some 47% of the total workforce in Portugal are women, with 40% (Italy and Austria), and 30% (Denmark). For his part, Spanish Secretary of State Josep Puxeu outlined that 48.9% of the rural population are women and that it is "important for them to have more power in decision-making processes", reiterating that the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a Royal Decree on shared ownership of agricultural enterprises in March 2009. Other themes discussed at the 3-day conference included the 'feminisation' of the rural-urban exodus, the 'female over-aging' of rural areas, the need for greater access to training and education and the Commission's role in developing 'gender-proofed' legal and technical policy instruments within the CAP architecture. Gender equality in rural areas is scheduled to be discussed at the May Farm Council (May 17). [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

EESC opinion on future CAP



There should be more stringent controls on the quality of imports from outside the EU and more action to promote the EU agri-food model in international fora such as the WTO and the FAO, according to suggestions by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) at its plenary session. Following the adoption of the opinion by Lutz Ribbe at the March plenary, the EESC has issued opinions by Rapporteur Carlos Trías Pinto (Esp) calling for clearer labelling and a better use of information and communication technologies, whilst Spanish José Moyano calls for greater consideration of sustainability as a "prerequisite for the survival of the European agri-food model". Addressing the EESC plenary earlier this, EU Farm Commissioner Dacian Cioloş stated that there needs to be "a more transparent system so that the taxpayers understand what they are paying for" and "the support of small-scale farms must continue as these farms create jobs in Europe's regions". [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

Farmers defend strong CAP in face of new challenges

EU farmers' lobby Copa-Cogeca said (4 May) that farmers and cooperatives are ready to contribute to the provision of environmental and rural public goods provided that the right incentives are put in place. Farmers already produce secure, safe and stable food supplies for European citizens, said Copa President Pádraig Walshe. The sector employs nearly 30 million people in rural areas, while farmers and foresters manage over three-quarters of EU territory, he added. However, "these huge public benefits are not remunerated by the market. They are assured by the CAP," he said after EU farm leaders had approved a position on reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). To continue to provide such benefits and contribute to boosting growth and jobs and tackling climate change in the years to come, EU farmers and agricultural cooperatives believe "a strong CAP will be more essential than ever". EU farm ministers first began to debate the CAP's post-2013 future back in 2008, while more recently, EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş launched an EU-wide public debate on the issue. Among the most contentious issues in the upcoming reform is whether or not to cut the CAP budget, which currently represents around 40% of total EU spending, and how to reform



the direct payment system. The budget is a major source of tension between CAP supporters like France, and critics such as the UK and the Netherlands. [Source: Euractiv](#)

Genetically Modified Organisms

MEPs restate opposition to food derived from cloned animals

The European Parliament's environment committee has voted not to authorise the entry of any food derived from cloned animals onto EU markets, putting MEPs on a collision course with the European Commission and the EU's Council of Ministers. The Parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee reaffirmed (4 May) the House's first-reading decision to entirely exclude food derived from cloned animals and their offspring from the EU's novel foods regulation. Instead, MEPs asked the Commission to present a separate legislative proposal on the matter. The new report follows a 2008 Parliament resolution calling for a ban on cloning for food supply purposes and an embargo on imports of cloned animals, their produce and offspring. The Commission's initial proposal would have included food derived from cloned animals but not their traditionally-bred offspring. The Council is in favour of including in the regulation food from both cloned animals and their offspring. The committee's report will be transmitted for approval by the full assembly for a second-reading vote. If it is approved - which is very likely considering the House's past positions on the matter - and the Council sticks to its position, the dossier will be heading for a conciliation procedure. [Source: Euractiv](#)

Commissioner slams green 'scaremongers' in GM debate

Europe's biotech industry must engage with the public on controversial issues like genetically-modified foods and cloning, according to John Dalli, the EU's health commissioner. In his first appearance before the European Parliament since his confirmation hearing in January, he said he is in favour of science-based policymaking and "sustainable innovation". However, he warned that an "instinctive fear and suspicion" had taken hold among European consumers due to scaremongering and a reluctance of industry to explain the science behind their products. "Lack of action by industry allows scaremongers to monopolise the media, leaving consumers to make decisions based on a one-sided debate," said Dalli. He said that whenever all the legal criteria have been met, there is no need to delay progress. "Surely we cannot be responsible for reducing Europe to an innovation backwater," he said. Dalli has been the target of a high-profile campaign by Greenpeace after approving a number of new GM products soon after taking office. "My fundamental approach is very simple. I am not in favour or against GMOs, but I follow science-based policymaking," he told MEPs. Dalli will meet ten environmental NGOs on Thursday to discuss GMOs and a range of other issues and called on all stakeholders to "tone down" their rhetoric to "a rational level". "I have also told Croplife [a plat biotech group] that they must engage with the public on GMO information. Innovators have a responsibility to explain the benefits of their products to consumers. [Source: Euractiv](#)



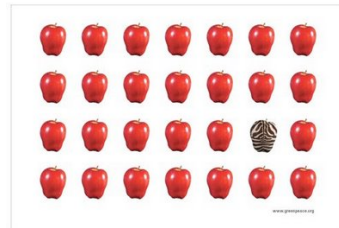
Dalli outlines series of policy initiatives at EP AGRI and ENVI committees

The EU approach to GMOs should involve greater co-operation with the US on scientific assessments, existing animal transport rules should be properly implemented across all Members States, rather than introducing new requirements, whilst rules regarding testing for TSEs could be relaxed in future - these are some of the key points put forward by EU Health Commissioner John Dalli in his exchange of views with the EP Environment (COMENVI) and Agriculture Committees (COMAGRI). Praising the draft EP own-initiative report by Swedish MEP Marit Paulen on the EU Animal Welfare Action Plan, whose conclusions "are very much in-line with Commission thinking", Dalli allayed MEP concerns over the potential cost burden of new animal transport rules, stating that the Commission is focussed on "pushing the enforcement of existing rules", with a report expected in the 2nd half of next year. He added that animal transport issues must be seen in the context of other policy areas - such as origin labelling. Elsewhere, the Commission is expected to come forward with its own evaluation of the first Animal Welfare Plan this Dec and is working on a TSE Roadmap with an outline of possible changes to EU measures on BSE for the period 2010-2015. Dalli also noted that proposals for a broader Animal Health Law would be published in early- 2011. Other policy initiatives signalled by Dalli in COMAGRI include a report on cloning by the end of this year – as pledged at his 3-hour EP Hearing last Jan a concrete initiative on greater subsidiarity on GMO cultivation in June – though this is now expected to be published in July- and the delivery of a new Plant Health Strategy in 2012. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

Paper reveals EU plan to boost GM crop cultivation

Europe faces a major overhaul of the way it deals with genetically modified (GM) crops, after the European Commission sparked controversy with new plans to circumvent its cumbersome legislative review process. The EU executive wants to let national governments decide whether or not to grow genetically-modified crops without a long drawn-out review of the bloc's current GM legislation, an initial impact assessment seen by Reuters showed.

Details of the plan, which would open the door to widespread GM cultivation in Europe, provoked a furious reaction from environmentalists already angry at the EU executive's decision to approve the commercial growing of a GM potato in March. But the plan will be a boost to biotech companies in the EU, where blockages in the current approval system have confined commercial growing to less than 100,000 hectares across the 27-nation bloc. It could also ease trade tensions between the EU and the United States, which launched a World Trade Organisation dispute against the EU in 2003 after countries including Austria and Germany banned the cultivation of an approved GM maize. The EU executive is hoping to unblock the paralysis in GM crop approvals by giving those countries that want to grow them the freedom to do so, while also sanctioning the current "GM-free" stance of several member states. Rather than revise the legislation, which would require the agreement of the European Parliament, the Commission will try to make the change "within the existing legislative framework, if possible," the paper said. "The Commission appears intent on avoiding any democratic debate with the Parliament in order to please the biotech industry and get GM crops into Europe," said Friends of the Earth campaigner Adrian Bebb [Source: Euractiv](#)



Food safety

EP COMENVI votes on 'Novel food' regulation, IPPC and illegal logging

There should be a complete exclusion of food derived from cloned animals and their offspring from the scope of draft legislation on "novel foods", according to the European Parliament Environment Committee (COMENVI). Voting through a report by Dutch MEP Kartika Liotard (GUE/NGL) - the Committee also demanded that foods produced with the aid of nano-technology undergo a risk assessment, as well as satisfy certain safety and labelling requirements before approval, in line with the precautionary principle. Nano-material is defined as having one or more dimensions less than 100nm and will need to be indicated in the list of ingredients, according to the draft legislation. The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies must also give its opinion before a novel food can be accepted onto the Community list, MEPs affirmed. The codecision dossier by Liotard, adopted by 42 votes in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions - will be up for plenary vote at the July session in Strasbourg (July 5-8). A political agreement on this dossier was secured in June 2009, though at the time the Commission (former EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou) was defiant that it could not sign up to a text which included the offspring of cloned animals within its scope. In a separate COMENVI vote, MEPs have agreed not to extend the scope of the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (IPPC) to include off-site manure spreading and intensive cattle farms. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

FAO raises concerns over further Foot-and-Mouth cases

There is a need for heightened international surveillance against Food-and-Mouth disease (FMD), following the 3 recent outbreaks in Japan and South Korea, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) stated. The Japanese authorities have confirmed further FMD cases among 4 pigs on a farm in the Southern prefecture of Miyazaki on April 27, where the government had previously detected the disease among 3 cows. The South Korean Ministry of Agriculture has also confirmed the 7th and 8th cases of FMD at a pig farm in Chungju and at a small cattle and goat farm on Ganghwa Island. More than 3 500 animals have been destroyed in South Korea in response to the outbreaks, which have been tentatively linked to pigs eating infected meat scraps, the FAO has signalled. Further surveillance measures such as a re-examination of possible routes of entry and measures to reinforce controls and more rigorous checks at ports and airports have been suggested by the UN agency. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)



EFSA on presence of chlormequat in table grapes from India

There is no acute consumer health risk if table grapes with a mean chlormequat residue concentration of 1.06 mg/kg are consumed, according to a statement delivered by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (April 22). Following a request from the Commission, EFSA noted that, if this concentration threshold is exceeded, i.e. if 'extreme' quantities are consumed, adverse health effects cannot be excluded. No consumer health risk was identified with long-term exposure. Before a final risk assessment can be completed, it needs to be confirmed if the source of the chlormequat residue results from an agricultural practice, according to EFSA.



Fruit and vegetables

25 MEMBER STATES CONFIRM PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL FRUIT SCHEME

Germany will receive some €10.8 million less and Italy a further €5.7m in EU funds for this year's School Fruit Scheme (SFS) compared to last year, it emerged at Single CMO Management Committee. The large amounts allocated to Germany (€20.8m) and France (€11.77m) last year were due to the re-allocation of funds, which were not taken up by Member States (based on the initial allocations). In agreeing the definitive allocation of €90m in Community financing for the 2010/2011 school year - to be matched by national and private funds - Finland and Sweden confirmed that they will not participate in the programme. Agreed by Farm Ministers in November 2008, the scheme aims to provide fruit and vegetables to school children from the start of the school year. The SFS also requires participating Member States to engage in educational and awareness-raising initiatives on healthy eating, as well as the sharing of best practice. Commission figures reveal that some 22 million children in the EU are overweight, with more than 5m of these classified as obese, a figure that is expected to rise by 400 000 every year. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

Trade

EU trade talks with MERCOSUR to resume

The Commission has decided to re-launch the negotiations towards an Association Agreement with the Mercosur countries, despite warnings that it could have a devastating impact on certain EU agricultural sectors. The move was confirmed at the Commission College meeting. No formal vote took place at the weekly meeting, but EU Farm Commissioner Dacian Cioloş is believed to have argued against restarting the talks because of the potential impact on EU agriculture, notably the beef, poultry and pigmeat sectors. He was supported by Irish and French Commissioners Máire Geoghegan-Quinn (Research and Innovation) and Michel Barnier (Internal Market) – with all 3 insisting on the need for a “cautious approach” and making a ‘common statement’ in the minutes. Although some further questions were raised about sustainability and Climate Change issues, the majority of Commissioners accepted the arguments of Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht that the gains in other sectors (industrial goods, such as cars, telecommunications and services) would outweigh the losses in agriculture, such that the net gain for the EU would be in the order of €4.5 billion. Acknowledging the potential problems for agriculture, Commission President José Barroso (who is rumoured to be the driving force behind the new initiative) stated that “we will address any adverse impact on certain sectors with specific measures, in particular in agriculture”. It remains unclear precisely what that might mean in practice. Barroso also underlined that the “decision will be accompanied by a number of conditions, ranging from sustainability to Intellectual Property Rights and Geographical Indications (GIs), most importantly”. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)



Supply chain

EP Hearing on the food supply chain

Market concentration in the food supply chain has meant that “the share going to producers has continued to shrink”, according to Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food. Speaking at a hearing at the European Parliament Agriculture Committee, De Schutter stressed the need for antitrust authorities to act and for existing antitrust legislation to be “implemented better”. The hearing aimed at providing input to an own-initiative report, drafted by French Green MEP entitled “Fair revenue for famers: a better functioning food supply chain in Europe”, which calls on the Commission to publish proposals for the mandatory annual reporting by the top 20 traders, processors, wholesalers and retailers on their market share for key food items and on their monthly sales volumes. Other speakers included Professor Roger Clarke (Cardiff University), who suggested an EU-wide code of conduct for supermarket chains and an EU Ombudsman to enforce it. Xavier Durieu, Secretary General of Eurocommerce, warned however of extra bureaucracy if “two much price transparency” is introduced. Professor Francesco Contò (Foggia University) called for more focus on the reduction of external costs to the supply chain such as transport, energy supply and logistical devices to ensure greater income to producers, whilst boosting farmers’ competitiveness. In terms of the next steps, a Committee vote on the draft resolution is scheduled for June, with the plenary vote to follow in September. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)



COPA-COGECA position on the food supply chain

The use of huge buying power among a handful of processors and supermarkets in commercial transactions along the food chain is leading to “unfair practices”, according to COGECA President Paulo Bruni. Speaking after the adoption of a position paper by COPA-COGECA on ways to promote the position of EU farmers and agri-cooperatives in the food supply chain, Bruni called for the adjustment of European competition rules to enable Producers Organisations to grow in size and scale, and to lead to the establishment of a ‘European Food Trading Agency’. This largely echoes with the farm lobby group’s position paper on the CAP beyond-2013. [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

Miscellaneous

Cereals outlook for 2010/2011

World grains consumption may slightly exceed production in 2010/11, though, with very large opening stocks, supplies will remain ample, according to the latest International Grains Council market report. It outlines that world wheat production is forecast at 658m tonnes, some 17mt less than last year. Meanwhile, world maize production is projected to reach 809mt – 6mt more than in 2009, with consumption expected to increase to 818mt. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

New Farm Ministers appointed in Slovenia and Hungary

Dejan Židan has been appointed the new Slovenian Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, following a unanimous vote in his favour in the Slovenian parliament. The 42-year old Chairman of the Panvita food conglomerate was nominated for the position by Prime Minister Borut Pahor. Following the victory of the centre-right Fidesz party in the

2nd round of Hungarian elections (25 April), the newly-appointed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has designated the agriculture portfolio to Sándor Fazekas. He replaces József Gráf, who is expected to retire from the political arena. Fazekas has been active as a parliamentarian for over 20 years and has also served as Mayor of Karcag in eastern Hungary. Both Farm Ministers are expected to make their debut appearance at the Informal Agriculture Council in Merida, Spain (May 30-June 1). [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

Green light for Community contribution to transport Finnish barley

All Member States – except the UK - have given the green light to allow a part Community subsidy of the transport cost of some 140 000 tonnes of Finnish barley (2009/2010 campaign) to an Estonian intervention warehouse in Keila at Management Committee. Originally scheduled to take place last Thursday, the decision was postponed due to legal concerns by Germany. The part subsidy is determined on the basis of the distance from silo to port with, for example, the 9 000t of barley from the western Finnish town of Perniö receiving €10.67/t and the 4 000t from Vaasa to receive €2.8/t. The call to address the shortage of physical storage capacity relative to the large volumes of Finnish barley being offered was first raised in a bilateral meeting between Finnish Farm Minister Sirkka-Liisa Anttila and EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş at the Feb Farm Council [Source AgraFacts No 36-10e](#)

US launches debate on 2012 Farm Bill

A status-quo US Farm Bill is unlikely in the face of required budget cuts next year to reduce the budget deficit, Committee Chairman Collin Peterson suggested on April 21. At its 1st hearing on the 2012 Farm Bill, the US House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee Chair, emphasised the need for an assessment of existing measures, whilst signalling that insurance programmes might become a “major” risk management tool in the future. For his part, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stressed the need to “bring prosperity back to rural America”, recalling that only 11% of family farm income actually comes from farming. Particular attention needs to be paid to areas such as i) broadband, ii) renewable energy and biofuels; iii) regional food systems and supply chains, iv) forest restoration and private land conservation, v) ecosystem market incentives, he stated. Vilsack also highlighted the need to provide a strong safety net for farmers and better off-farm jobs. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

Dalli's 1st visit to the US

EU Health Commissioner John Dalli called for an agenda of “responsible innovation across the two sides of the Atlantic” in his 1st official visit to Washington D.C. (April 26-27). Speaking at the annual meeting of the Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) he underlined the need to “safeguard and enhance the health and rights of consumers ... and ensure they are empowered to use them”. Meeting with US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and US Trade Ambassador Ron Kirk, he discussed ways to make progress on food safety issues such as GMOs, anti-microbial treatments and BSE, as well drawing attention to potential problems that might arise from technological innovations such as cloning. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

National Research Council report on impacts of GE crops in the US

Improvements in water quality resulting from the complementary nature of herbicide-resistant technology and conservation tillage may represent the largest single environmental benefit of Genetically Engineered (GE) crops, according to a report by the US National Research Council. The 235-page report - entitled The Impact of Genetically

Engineered Crops on Farm Sustainability in the United States – concludes that GE crops present “substantial economic and environmental benefits – such as lower production costs, fewer pest problems, reduced use of pesticides and better yields – compared with conventional crops”. The findings underline that insecticide use has declined since GEs were introduced and farmers till less often for weed control, having a positive impact on soil quality and water filtration. Noting that “weed problems in fields of GE herbicide-resistant crops will become more common as weeds evolve resistance”, the report warns that GE crops risk becoming less effective unless “more diverse management practices” are introduced, such as herbicide rotation and cultural and mechanical control practices. [Source AgraFacts No 35-10e](#)

Upcoming events

N.B. The IFAP meeting for the World Farmers Congress was cancelled

Anyone affected by this should contact IFAP: valerio.lucchesi@ifap.org

Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains

Participants can now register for the 3rd European Organic Congress “Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains” to be held on 7th of June in Madrid. The European Organic Congress III “Green New Deal for Sustainable Food Chains - The strategic role of the organic food sector to promote efficient use of natural resources and sustainable jobs in rural areas” is organised by the IFOAM EU Group and SEAE, with EFFAT and Countdown 2010 as partners. It will focus on the question how to best use and promote the potentials the organic sector has to offer to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, the halt of biodiversity loss and the creation of jobs. [Register: here](#)

World Tomato Congress 2010

21 – 23 June, Estoril (Portugal) will hold the World Tomato Congress and the ISHS Symposium. In 1979 Portugal successfully organized the first International Symposium for Processed Tomatoes in Evora, which was the precursor for the many Tomato Congress’s and Symposia which have since been held every two years in virtually all the continents of the Globe. This years event will include sessions on sustainability and transforming the tomato. For more information on the event please [click here](#)



International Conference on Climate Adaption



Rotterdam, the Netherlands will hold the conference ‘Deltas in Times of Climate Change’ from September 29-October 1, 2010. The two official Dutch research programmes on climate change and spatial planning (Climate changes Spatial Planning and Knowledge for Climate), the City of Rotterdam and the C40 (a group of the world’s largest cities committed to

tackling climate change) invite scientists, politicians, policy-makers and practitioners to share their knowledge and experience in a major international conference on climate adaptation. The conference pursues three main goals:

1. exchanging up-to-date top science on climate change and delta planning
2. strengthening international cooperation between deltas and delta cities

3. exploring and strengthening the links between science, policy and practitioners. For more information [click here](#)

CEJA Advisory Groups

! IMPORTANT:

Please, send an e-mail to g.ducceschi@ceja.be or ceja@ceja.be if you want to participate as a reimbursed expert for CEJA.

Expert participation in Advisory Groups as CEJA representative

Member organisations scheduled to attend their relevant AG are reminded that they participate in these groups as CEJA experts, representing one million young farmers across the European Union. The CEJA experts are asked to contact the office in Brussels at ceja@ceja.be to **confirm** their **participation**, at least **one week before the meeting** and to obtain all the necessary information and meeting documents. Participants are also asked to visit the CEJA office before attending any meeting on behalf of CEJA and take a copy of the documents for the CEJA office.

Date	Subject	CEJA Expert	Country	Observer
11/05	Quality of Production			

Events Agenda for CEJA Members

NB: CEJA events are marked in red, CERYC activities in green and IFAP activities in blue.

Date	Event	Attendance	City	Country
15-20/05/2010	39th IFAP World Farmers' Congress	Cancelled	Cancelled	Algeria
17-18/05/2010	Agriculture Council Meeting		Brussels	BE
30/05 – 1/06/2010	Informal Agriculture Council		Extremadura	ES
13-21/05/2010	CBD Fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (to be confirmed)			
28-29/06/2010	Agriculture Council Meeting		Luxembourg	LU
17-19/09/2010	CEJA Seminar on the future of CAP		Louvain-la-Neuve	BE
10-14/11/2010	EIMA International Agriculture Fair		Bologna	IT
July 2011	3 rd IFAP Young Farmers' World Congress (to be confirmed)			Kenya

Contact

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Next E-info on 13th May 2010.