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Press Release

COPA-COGECA WELCOMES TSE ROADMAP AND CALLS FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Copa-Cogeca welcomes publication of the new TSE roadmap released by the EU Commission today, which highlights the positive trend in the BSE situation. Copa-Cogeca urges the EU Commission to ease current restrictions.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen insisted “We welcome the suggestion in the roadmap to continue gradually raising the minimum testing age for BSE in cattle and we want a clear commitment from the EU Commission on this. This would greatly reduce the number of tests carried out annually in the EU, which in some member states are paid for entirely by the farmer himself, creating additional burdens and costs. EU figures show that since the testing age has been increased to 48 months since 2009 in 17 Member States, costs have already dropped from 14.15 M€ in 2008 to 9.91 M€ in 2009”.

He continued “We are also happy that the roadmap answers many of our demands on Processed Animal Protein (PAPs) and the re-inclusion of non-ruminant PAPs in non-ruminant feed avoiding intra species recycling. The feed ban for non-ruminants could consequently be lifted. Copa-Cogeca calls on the Belgian Presidency to make urgent progress on this in the coming months”

“Copa-Cogeca attaches the greatest importance to maintaining a high level of safety and consumer protection, with all measures based on latest scientific data and epidemiological evidence. They should also be proportionate to the degree of risk, bearing in mind the cost/benefit relationship. We encourage the Belgium Presidency to conclude on this dossier by the end of the year and urge the European Commission, MEPs and EU Ministers to make progress on the issues outlined in the roadmap on the control of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE).”, Mr Pesonen stressed.

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