copa cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

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CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN FARMERS 2016

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE: GREEN GROWTH AND DYNAMIC MARKETS

SCOPE

The EU agricultural sector provides multiple benefits to society by delivering safe, secure and high-quality food at affordable prices to 500 million consumers, whilst also preserving an attractive countryside, maintaining biodiversity, fostering growth and providing jobs. Considering the increasing challenges agriculture is facing, the congress aims to launch a debate on the future of European agriculture, to ensure that it continues to be an economically viable, sustainable and competitive sector. It is vital to produce more and better, with fewer resources, so that producers can contribute to tackling one of the biggest challenges of the next decade, i.e. increasing food production to meet the demands of a growing world population, whilst also fighting against climate change, which itself threatens food production. The congress will look at how best to invest to create a sustainable European agricultural sector in the future. Tackling market instability and price volatility demands successful trade agreements and a strong export strategy to tap new export markets. A better functioning food supply chain is also crucial.

Follow the event at **#DynamicAgri**

5th OCTOBER 2016

Copa and Cogeca workshop in preparation for the main plenary session on 6th October.

Location: Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Greece

Workshop: Getting value from innovative solutions – what needs to change?

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Coffee and registration
1:30 – 1:50 p.m.	Opening speech
1:50 – 4:15 p.m.	Session 1: Farmers leading innovation
4:15 – 4:35 p.m.	Coffee break
4:35 – 7:00 p.m.	Session 2: Connecting farmers to the value chain
8:00 – 10:30 p.m.	**Dinner at the Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Greece**

6th OCTOBER 2016 – MAIN PLENARY SESSION

Location: Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso, Greece

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Coffee and registration
9:00 – 9:20 a.m.	Opening speeches by Martin Merrild, Copa President, and Thomas Magnusson, Cogeca President Welcoming words by the Greek hosting organisation Message from the Young Farmers – Alan Jagoe, CEJA President
9:20 – 9:50 a.m.	Keynote speech: Greek government representative
	Panel session 1: Policies for a dynamic and sustainable EU agricultural sector **Moderator:** Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor
9:50 – 10:00 a.m.	Gabriela Matečná, Slovak Minister for Agriculture and current Chair of the Agricultural and Fisheries Council
10:00 – 10:10 a.m.	Czesław Adam Siekierski, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
10:10 – 10:20 a.m.	Werner Schmidt, Director of the Department on the Environment and Sustainable Territorial Development, EIB
10:20 – 10:40 a.m.	**Debate**
10:40 – 11:05 a.m.	Marc Vanheukelen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organisation: How to make use of the growing opportunities on the world market and ensure a dynamic export strategy
11:05 – 11:30 a.m.	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	**Panel session 2: Meeting society's demands and ensuring green growth** **Moderator:** Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor **Panellists:** Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary General; Örjan Brinkman, BEUC President; Jean-Yves Foucault, Limagrain President
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	**Lunch**
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Feedback from the workshop by Martyn Pýcha, Cogeca Vice-President, and by Maira Dzelzkalēja, Copa Vice-President
2:45 – 4:15 p.m.	**Panel session 3: How to secure farm incomes on dynamic markets** **Moderator:** Dimitri Houtart, BBC Rural Affairs Champion & Radio 4 Rural Affairs & Environment Editor **Panellists:** Jonathan Cordone, USDA; Christian Pèes, Euralis President; Paul Rooke, Celcaa President
4:15 – 4:45 p.m.	**Coffee break**

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development: Next steps to ensure a dynamic and sustainable EU agricultural sector
5:15 – 5:40 p.m.	Questions and answers with Commissioner Hogan
5:40 – 6:00 p.m.	Closing speeches by Martin Merrild, Copa President, and Thomas Magnusson, Cogeca President
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Press conference
8:00 p.m.	**Gala dinner at the Divani Apollon Palace & Thalasso hosted by the Greek delegation**

7th OCTOBER 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **3rd Panhellenic Congress on the Development of Greek Agriculture hosted by GAIA EPICHEIREIN**

This is the third edition of a congress that has now become somewhat of an institution, bringing together more than 500 representatives of key stakeholders across the agri-food sector in Greece every year.

Commissioner Hogan has confirmed his participation as the keynote speaker at the opening session of the congress (9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.).
The congress will be divided into two panels (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.).
Lunch will be provided between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Interpretation in all Copa and Cogeca official languages, as well as Greek will be available for the opening session and the first panel.
The second panel will be held in English and Greek.
A detailed programme of the congress will follow in due course.

GAIA EPICHEIREIN is the fruit of a broad coalition between farmers' cooperatives, the IT sector and the banking sector, the aim of which is to enhance the entrepreneurship and competitiveness of Greek farmers and their businesses.

Interpretation will be available throughout the congress in French, German, English, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Greek.