Copa and Cogeca Workshop

3 June 2016 • 9.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

INNOVATE, INVEST, COOPERATE
European farmers' and agri-cooperatives commitment to green growth

Copa and Cogeca Secretariat
61, Rue de Trèves
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Background
Global demand for food is set to increase by 70% by 2050 to meet the needs of the 9-billion strong world population. At the same time, farmers are encountering numerous pressures related to the natural environment – scarcity of available land, water shortages and weather extremes due to climate change impacts, new and emerging pests and diseases – that make it increasingly difficult for them to produce safe and nutritious food sustainably.

Objective of the Workshop
Against this background, the objective of the workshop and the networking lunch is to outline different strategies that contribute to ensuring a sustainable agricultural sector for future generations. The projects and initiatives which will be presented showcase European farmers’ and agri-cooperatives’ contributions to green growth. They represent their investments in biodiversity and ecosystem services, their commitment to more resource efficiency and better coordination models for a sustainable future. It will be highlighted that farmers help to tackle today’s challenge of increasing the production of safe and nutritious food. But, likewise, they are committed to sustainable agricultural production which includes the efficient use of available resources, the protection of nature and biodiversity as well as contributions to the fight against climate change. Today, their commitment already translates into smart and innovative farming and management practices. Hence, the workshop will also look at how these best practices can be better disseminated, widely spread and used in the agricultural sector as well as being better recognised by society.

Moderator
David Lamb, Policy Advisor, European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)
9:00  **Registration**
9:30  **Opening remarks**
By Mr Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa and Cogeca
9:35  **Keynote speech** on responding to increasing societal challenges – the role of the agricultural sector
By Mr Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director General Rural Development and Research, DG AGRI

**Session I  Farmers’ and cooperatives’ investments in biodiversity and ecosystem services**

9:50  “Campaign for the Farmed Environment – Protecting natural resources and utilizing on farm natural resources” (UK) – Presentation of a video
9:55  “La ferme laitière bas carbone” (Low-carbon dairy farm) as an example of providing ecosystem services regarding the mitigation of climate change (FR)
By Mr Thierry Roquefeuil, President of the FNPL (French Federation of Dairy Producers)
10:05  “Natur Verbindet” (Nature connects) - Multi-annual campaign in Austria
By Mr Valentin Opfermann, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture
10:20  Panel debate with remarks
By Mr Vujadin Kovacevic, Policy Officer, DG ENVI, Unit for Biodiversity
10:45  **Coffee Break**

**Session II  Cooperatives’ and farmers’ commitment to greater resource efficiency in agriculture**

11:00  “Tesla – Transferring Energy Save Laid on Agroindustry” (ES, PT, IT, FR)
By Mr Juan Sagarna García, Cooperativas Agro-Alimentarias, Spain
11:15  “Rec Alkaline Ltd. – Power for Growth, and Respect for the Environment” (FI)
By Mr Petri Huhtala, Chairman of the board, founder REC ALKALINE Ltd. and farmer in Finland, Member of MTK
11:30  Panel debate with remarks
By Mr Jan-Willem van der Schans, Senior Researcher from Wageningen University

**Session III  Better cooperation for a sustainable future**

11:55  “Projet d’Avenir – Ensemble, agir pour une système agroalimentaire durable”
(Wallonia, BE)
By Mrs Françoise Bodson, Project Manager Sustainability at WagrALIM, Agro-Industry Cluster Namur Region, Belgium
12:10  “Baltic Compass/Compact” and follow-up projects (Belarus, EE, LV, LT, PL, DE, DK, SE, FI)
By Mrs Zanda Melnalksne, Farmers Parliament Latvia
12:25  Panel debate with remarks
By Mrs Inge van Oost, DG AGRI, Unit for Research and Innovation
12:50  **Closing remarks**
By Mrs Diane Mitchell, Vice-Chair of the Copa and Cogeca Working Party on Environment
13:00 - 14:00  **Opening Words and Networking Lunch at the exhibition area**
By Mrs Sofia Björnsson, Chair of the Copa and Cogeca Working Party on Rural Development
and
**Presentation of projects** and initiatives by European farmers and agri-cooperatives at the exhibition area
COPA AND COGECA:
THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN FARMERS AND EUROPEAN AGRI-COOPERATIVES

Copa-Cogeca is the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 13 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 38,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 70 member organisations from the EU member states.