

## CEPM position on post-2020 CAP (p.2)

### > Editorial

#### Our best wishes for 2018

First of all, we wish good health, happiness in all things big and small, and professional as well as personal achievements to all the readers of this newsletter and all European maize-growers!

2018 is full of tremendous challenges for maize production, and CEPM will of course maintain its mobilisation. This concerns international trade agreements, in particular Mercosur, which will have a significant impact on our sector. It also includes talks on the future of the CAP, with a willingness to maintain a genuine European policy alongside a strong and ambitious budget, and allow agricultural firms to use pragmatic and effective tools to manage / protect markets and achieve results in terms of risk management or greening, avoiding all dogmatism in our approach. We remain cautious regarding a possible hint of renationalisation in the Commission's announcements, but welcome the concrete proposals on simplifying and modernising the CAP tools. We will need to work together to define tomorrow's CAP, without forgetting the budget question, which has been made yet more complicated by Brexit...

Finally, let us hope that 2018 brings some long-term solutions and rationality on the issue of agricultural inputs and that science is put back in its rightful place. This would enable us to avoid new sagas like glyphosate, which are as detrimental to the EU's image as to the effectiveness of its farming in meeting EU citizens' primary need: providing healthy and safe food based on quality agriculture.

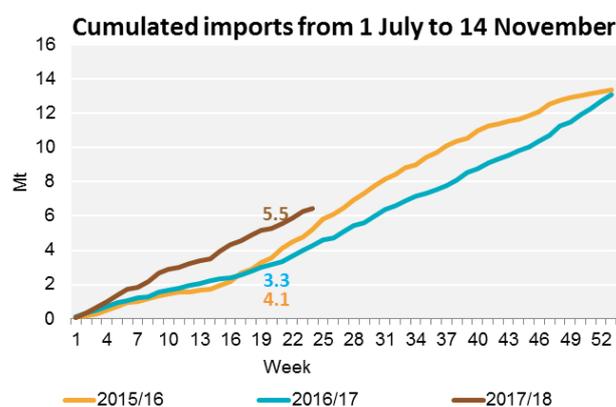
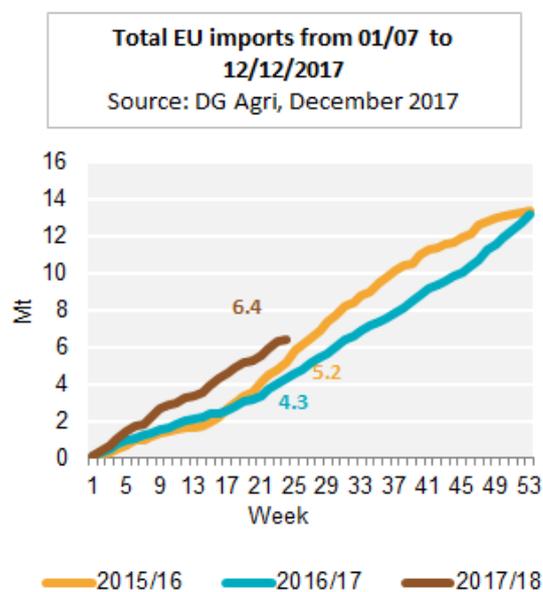
A happy 2018 to all!

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### Summary

- Editorial & Key figures..... 1
- Post-2020 CAP..... 2
- Agreement on the agricultural part of the Omnibus ..... 3
- REFIT review of the Pesticides Regulation ..... 3
- Glyphosate re-authorised for 5 years ..... 4
- Neonicotinoids – towards a vote in March 2018 ..... 4
- Latest news from CEPM's member organisations ..... 5
- CEPM's members' meetings ..... 6

#### KEY FIGURES :



## CEPM POSITION ON POST-2020 CAP

**Following an internal debate between CEPM members (European Confederation of Maize Production), European maize producers have adopted a common position on the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They intend to circulate it as widely as possible ahead of the upcoming discussions.**

CEPM's position can be summed up as follows: a strengthened budget, limited subsidiarity, a broader modernised toolbox, and a review of the environmental approach.

For CEPM, the European Union has to bring genuine ambition to its agriculture and to the men and women who make a living from it, thus serving the strategic priorities set down by the European Commission. This restored ambition should be founded on a **strengthened budget**, still under discussion. More than ever, the post-2020 CAP should maintain its common EU character by **limiting the subsidiarity** offered to Member States, in particular under the first pillar.

The post-2020 CAP must allow for broadening the toolbox available to producers, making them better able to manage the **weather- and market-related risks** they have to face, and to **improve their competitiveness**: a safety net in times of market crisis, decoupled basic payments, improved risk management tools, a policy alongside investments that aims to improve the

competitiveness of the EU maize sector, and wider access to innovation.

Finally, the **environmental approach should be reviewed** in the post-2020 CAP in order to gain the support of farmers. Greening should strengthen farmers' individual or collective initiatives instead of weakening production, income and therefore the sustainability of European farms. This is exemplified in the initiative spearheaded by CEPM regarding the recognition of practices equivalent to greening.

*"While the European Union is on the brink of becoming the world's leading maize importer, European producers represented by CEPM want to push forward an ambitious project for this crop ahead of the next CAP. Our objective is to support high goals for EU maize production, thereby at the very least meeting Europe's needs"* declared Daniel Peyraube, CEPM President.

## Communication "The Future of Food and Farming" – 29 November

On 29 November 2017, Commissioner Phil Hogan presented the Communication on the Future of Food and Farming, which aims to support European farmers while dealing with other challenges such as climate change and the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

The main announcement was the greater level of flexibility granted to Member States, which could in the future choose the most appropriate measures at national level, in order to reach the objectives set down at EU level. These national measures would be presented in "CAP strategic plans", which the Commission would have to approve. The "one size fits all" approach appears to have been abandoned for the CAP, potentially leading to worse competitive distortions and demonstrating the absence of a real agricultural project for the EU!

However, the significance of this Communication – which is not a legislative proposal but a broad guideline – should be put in perspective. The legislative proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) should be presented in May 2018 by the Commission, to be then debated by the Council and the Parliament in a context of uncertainty linked to the impact of Brexit. Only on the basis of the MFF will it be possible to have a figure-based debate about the future CAP – on the latter, the legislative proposals are expected to be published before summer 2018.

## OMNIBUS REGULATION – AGREEMENT ON THE AGRICULTURAL PART

On 13 December 2017, the Council of Ministers formally adopted the agricultural and rural development part of the so-called “Omnibus” Regulation. These changes came into force on 1 January 2018, continuing the on-going simplification and modernisation of the CAP.

Initially conceived by the European Commission as a mere exercise in simplification, the negotiations – especially in the European Parliament – have been more ambitious, going so far as considering a genuine mid-term review of the CAP. The Council, which was closer to the Commission’s initial position on the content and timetable of the Omnibus Regulation, succeeded during the autumn 2017 trilogues in finding a compromise acceptable to the Rapporteurs, taking into account specific demands of the European Parliament, while allowing for **implementation as of 1 January 2018**.

Thus, if it did not succeed in simplifying the greening of direct payments, the Parliament nevertheless obtained concessions on the **insurance schemes** (to allow compensation up to a maximum of 70% for the farmers whose production or income has decreased by at least 20%) and the rules applying to **producer organisations** (extension of the rules already applicable to milk, olive oil and cereals sectors and lifting the concentration limit of 33% at national level and 3.5% at European level).

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE PESTICIDES REGULATION

Since November 2016, a REFIT review has been underway at European level to assess the fitness of the current legislation governing the registration of plant protection products in the EU. It should be completed by November 2018, and could potentially lead to a new legislative proposal reforming the system.

As part of the [REFIT](#) review of Regulation 1107/2009 on plant protection products (“Pesticides Regulation”), an [online consultation](#) is open to citizens from 13 November 2017 until **12 February 2018**. The consultation is open to everybody in the form of a structured questionnaire to guide the European Commission’s analyses.

At the same time, a [questionnaire specifically designed for stakeholders](#) was also open to contributions until 31 December 2017. Of course, CEPM has provided its views on this issue. The questionnaire extends from the general perception of the legislation to its implementation and concrete content (definitions, approval procedures, classification of active substances, their replacement with alternative substances, administrative burden, etc.). These consultations should be followed by “focus group” meetings on specific issues.

In addition, Czech S&D MEP Pavel Poc started working in May 2017 on an **own-initiative report on the implementation of the Pesticides Regulation** within the ENVI Committee. This report is expected to be discussed in the plenary session of the Parliament in June 2018. The shadow rapporteurs in the ENVI Committee are

Mairead McGuinness (EPP), Julie Girling (ECR), Jan Huitema (ALDE), Martin Häusling (Greens), Anja Hazekamp (GUE ) and Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD). German EPP MEP Peter Jahr will be the rapporteur for opinion on behalf of the Parliament’s AGRI Committee.

This own-initiative report will not be technically binding for the European Commission, which has the monopoly of legislative initiative in the EU, but will allow MEPs to have their voice heard before the end of the Pesticides Regulation REFIT review, and in advance of likely new Commission legislative proposals in the area.

There are many opportunities for CEPM to make its opinion known on this issue in particular so that the approval system “loosens” and allows European maize producers access within the same time limits and under similar conditions to plant protection products.

## 5-YEAR RE-AUTHORISATION FOR GLYPHOSATE IN THE APPEAL COMMITTEE WHAT NOW?

On 27 November 2017 – to everyone's surprise – a qualified majority of Member States sitting on the Appeal Committee voted in favour of the re-authorisation of glyphosate at European level for five years. Four countries – Germany, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria – changed their stance at the last minute from abstention to a vote in favour of re-approval.

**18 Member States voted for the re-authorisation of glyphosate**, 9 against and 1 abstention. This result made it possible to reach the qualified majority threshold, which is set at 55% of Member States and 65% of the European Union population.

Following this vote, the Greens in the European Parliament (EP) announced that they want to gather a majority in the EP in favour of filing an action for annulment of the decision at the European Court of Justice. This initiative is based in particular on a report presented on 7 December by [Olivier De Schutter](#), former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, according to which this re-authorisation infringes notably the precautionary principle given “*the absence of scientific certainty*”, and even mentions a “*questioning of the principle of democracy in the EU*”. Environmental NGOs, such as the Pesticide Action Network, have also indicated that they have lodged complaints with public prosecutors’ offices in Vienna and Berlin against the German institute BfR and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which conducted the glyphosate risk assessment – an assessment concluding that glyphosate was not carcinogenic.

Following the positive vote in the Appeal Committee on 27 November, the European Commission definitively adopted the decision to re-authorise for 5 years at the meeting of the College of Commissioners in Strasbourg on 12 December. The implementing act was published on 15 December and fully entered into force on 16 December.

At the meeting of the College on 12 December, the Commission also responded via a Communication to the European Citizens’ Initiative “*Ban glyphosate and protect people and the environment from toxic pesticides*”. In this Communication, it announced **more transparency in scientific assessments in the future**, stating a commitment to present a legislative proposal by spring 2018 to improve the transparency, quality and independence of scientific assessments of substances. With this in mind, a report on the fitness check of the General Food Law (the legal basis of EFSA) will first be published in January 2018 to take stock of the legislation in force, followed by a public consultation in preparation for the legislative proposal. CEPM will closely follow these discussions, which will also be linked to the wider debate on the registration of plant protection products.

## NEONICOTINOIDS: TOWARDS A VOTE IN MARCH 2018

**A vote on the potential ban on the use of all three neonicotinoid substances in all crops has been postponed until March 2018. This provides additional time to farmers for whom a complete ban would be very harmful insofar as there is no alternative substance for some crops in terms of facing certain pests.**

The national experts meeting in the Standing Committee (SCoPAFF) on 13 December 2017 discussed the European Commission’s proposals to extend the current ban on three neonicotinoid substances – imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam – to all non-greenhouse crops. However, the vote that was originally anticipated did not take place and has been put off until March 2018.

Moreover, EFSA has postponed the date of its updated risk assessment on the effects of neonicotinoids on bees: it was supposed to be finalised by the end of November 2017, but now it will be published in February 2018. Results have been firmly expected by CEPM for the past 2 years since the launch of the call for data. The Commission has therefore chosen to postpone the vote to the first SCoPAFF meeting taking place after the publication of these EFSA conclusions in March 2018.

## BULGARIA

## 7<sup>th</sup> National Agro Seminar 2017

30 November - 1 December 2017, Plovdiv

This year's National Agro Seminar highlighted the slogan "Horizons on Bulgarian Grain Production" with a primary focus on sustainable soil management. Bulgarian and foreign guest lecturers made their contributions to raise awareness of conservation practices and preservation of soil fertility – direct sowing and minimal soil practices, soil organisms and nutrient management, growing catch crops and winter green cover.

Optimising production costs, as well as improving profitability and productivity of farms by using innovative solutions, were some of the key points made in companies' presentations.

A discussion on current issues between NGPA and the national institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, and State Fund 'Agriculture') was also held.

In conclusion, the Seventh National Agro Seminar successfully managed to provide farmers with helpful and necessary information for their activities.



## FRANCE 2017 Maize Congress: towards customised maize

Close to 700 people attended the 2017 Maize Congress in Toulouse on 22-23 November, which was clearly oriented towards innovative, competitive and civic maize.

The future of maize will go through innovative and customised maize-growing to guarantee better economic and environmental sustainability. But even though maize has good results to show (water efficiency, sustainability as a monocrop), its acceptance could be approved through more dialogue. This is indeed the optimistic belief of AGPM and Maiz'Europ' President Daniel Peyraube: *"Maize means yield potential, nutritional qualities and clean energy. But the expectations of producers are significant: access to water, to plant protection products and to biotechnologies, bio-control, CAP..."*. These are concerns shared by FNSEA President Christiane Lambert, who called for a halt to the demonisation of plant protection products, and instead to focus on a "solutions pact".



## GERMANY DMK annual meeting, Bremen on 20-21 November 2017

On 20-21 November, DMK held its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Bremen. DMK Chairman Prof. Taube welcomed more than 150 farmers, advisors and scientists. In various meetings the participants discussed the development of the maize and cereal markets and the consequences of Brexit for EU agribusiness or the current German policy regarding new breeding techniques and the use of plant protection products.

During the General Assembly, Prof. Dr. Enno Bahrs from Hohenheim University was elected as a new member of the DMK Board. A traditional event is the DMK Award for young scientists. This year the prize was awarded to two young scientists from the universities of Hohenheim and Osnabrück during the evening reception.



Participants of the DMK Annual Meeting in Bremen



Prof. Taube and the two award-winners



### CEPM MEMBERS

GERMANY – *Deutsches Maiskomitee (DMK)*

BULGARIA - *National Grain Producers Association (NGPA) et Conseil des Organisations Agricoles*

SPAIN - *Asociacion General de Productores de Maíz de España (AGPME)*

FRANCE – *Association Générale des Producteurs de Maïs (AGPM)*

HUNGARY – *Vetőmag Szövetség Szakmaközi Szervezet és Terméktanács (VSZT)*

ITALY - *Associazione Italiana Maiscoltori (AMI)*

POLAND - *Polski Związek Producentów Kukurydzy (PZPK)*

PORTUGAL – *ANPROMIS*

ROMANIA - *Association Roumaine des Producteurs de Maïs (APPR)*

SLOVAKIA - *Zväz pestovateľ'ov a spracovateľ'ov kukurice (ZPSK)*

#### Civil Dialogue Groups

**19-03-2018:** International Aspects of Agriculture

**16-03-2018:** Arable Crops – Sugar

**09-03-2018:** Direct Payments and Greening

**06-02-2012:** Arable Crops – COP and seeds

### CEPM's members' meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2018

- ✓ **CEPM:**
  - **20 February 2018:** Board Meeting – Paris.
- ✓ **Portugal:**
  - **7 February 2018:** ANPROMIS holds its 9<sup>th</sup> maize colloquium in Póvoa do Varzim (25 km north of Porto), in a region specialised in milk production.
  - **8 February 2018:** “field day” with the visit to the Portuguese Plant Germplasm farm (2<sup>nd</sup> biggest in the world), then a visit to an efficient dairy farm of 1,200 dairy cows.
- ✓ **Romania:**
  - **25 January 2018:** General Assembly – APPR Annual Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Golden Maize Award, Bucharest.
- ✓ **Germany:**
  - **19-28 January 2018:** International Green Week, Berlin (DMK in Hall 3.2, Stand 122).
  - **15 January 2018:** Working Group Variety Testing, Hannover
  - **2 March 2018:** DMK Board, Würzburg
  - **15-16 March 2018:** Working Group Farm Management and Economics, Mannheim
  - **17-18 April 2018:** Working Group Forage Conservation and Feeding, Halle/Saale