

NewsletterCEPM

LES DERNIÈRES NOUVELLES DE LA PRODUCTION EUROPÉENNE DE MAÏS • THE LATEST NEWS IN EUROPEAN MAIZE PRODUCTION



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CAP post-2020 : co-legislators enter the stage (p.2)

> Editorial

Climate change is more and more visible at the global scale. Europe suffered the consequences this year with the severe drought which, this time, also impacted Northern countries. We know that we will have to adapt to this new context, but we should not give up.

Nowadays, there are many tools that can help European farmers be productive and competitive. We can store water resources, given that we have no water shortage but it is not evenly distributed in terms of areas and seasons: without water there is no agriculture. Risk management tools as well: insurances, guarantee funds, crisis reserves... that can help farmers who suffered from adverse weather conditions in Europe, but also from the sometimes disastrous consequences of agricultural prices. The CAP must bring answers to these issues. And, finally, access to innovation, as research can and must bring answers to adapt crops to heatwaves, to crops drowning in floods, to salinity... while giving satisfying answers to citizens' concerns in terms of quality and environment protection.

European maize producers are up for the challenge!

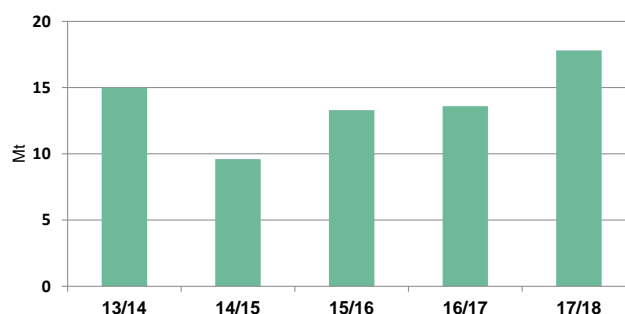
Céline Duroc,
CEPM Permanent Delegate,
AGPM Director General

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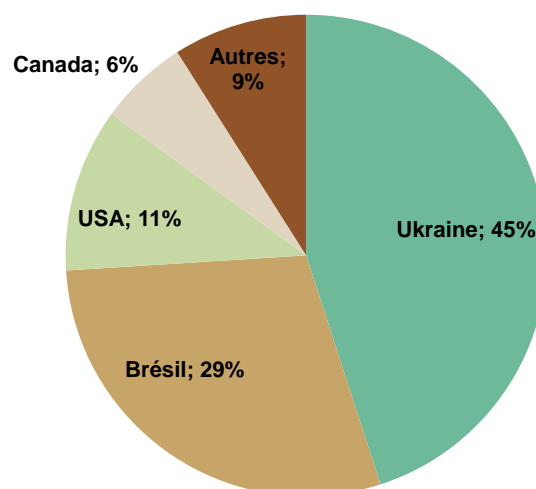
KEY FIGURES :

Structural increase of EU imports



Source: DG Agri / Eurostat, July – June crop year

Ukraine remains the EU's top supplier



Source: DG Agri

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CAP POST-2020 : CO-LEGISLATORS ENTER THE STAGE

The European Commission published its legislative proposal for the future post-2020 CAP on 1st June. The co-legislators – the European Parliament and the Council of the EU – started to work in order to build their respective positions.

The parliamentary work has started

At the European Parliament, in the Agriculture committee, the three post-2020 CAP proposals have been attributed to different rapporteurs:

- **Proposal on national strategic plans :** Esther Herranz García (EPP) in AGRI and Giovanni La Via (EPP) in ENVI
- **Proposal on financing, management and monitoring 2021–2027:** Ulrike Müller (ALDE)
- **Proposal on common markets organisation :** Eric Andrieu (S&D)

Concerning the first proposal on national strategic plans, insofar as it includes the scheme succeeding to CAP greening, **the Environment committee of the European Parliament asked to be recognised as an associated parliamentary committee**, which was accepted on 5 July. As such, the ENVI committee will have to give its agreement to the AGRI committee concerning the procedural schedule, and rapporteurs in AGRI and ENVI will have to keep each other informed and agree on the texts and positions on amendments.

The AGRI committee organised its first debate on 11 June 2018, during which Commissioner Hogan presented to MEPs the legislative proposals. MEPs expressed their concerns on the project, in particular their worries that agriculture would become the adjustment variable of Brexit.

On 9 July another exchange of views was organised on the “national strategic plans” proposals in the AGRI committee, during which MEPs mostly complained about the tight schedule imposed by the Commission (objective of a draft report in October 2018 and amendments in November 2018), with the May 2019 EU elections and their **uncertainties on the possibility of reaching a deal before this date**.

During the AGRI committee meeting of 29 August, a representative of the European Commission (DG AGRI) presented in particular the simplification and subsidiarity aspects of the new proposal.

The Council progressing on its position

The Council of the EU is working on the reform “at all levels”: working group, Special Committee on Agriculture (CSA), Council.

On 4 June 2018, during an informal meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture in Sofia, Latvia, Portugal and Slovakia criticised the Commission’s proposal, judged to be insufficiently ambitious in terms of external convergence of direct support, according to them. For Germany, Romania, Czech Republic and Estonia, the capping and degression of aid should remain optional.

On 18 June 2018, during the meeting of the Agricultural Council in Luxembourg, national Agriculture Ministers underlined:

- A mechanism increasing the burden of national administrations and farmers, and
- Greater responsibilities for the Member States, meaning a renationalisation of the CAP.

On 2 July 2018, during a meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture in Brussels, the Austrian presidency asserted its ambition to simplify the national strategic plans as much as possible.

On 16 July 2018, Commissioner Hogan presented the topics of simplification and subsidiarity in the new CAP to national Agriculture Ministers. The next meetings of the AGRI Council are planned for 10 September, 15-16 October, 19-20 November and 17-18 December.

Will the Institutions be ready to conclude trilogues before the EU elections, as planned by the Commission? This is not certain given the magnitude of the tasks in front of them. But the CEPM will remain mobilised in all cases, as soon as the summer break ends, in order to meet the rapporteurs in particular and remind them of the ambition of maize growers regarding the many challenges they wish to take up in the next CAP!

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE: NBT CONSIDERED AS GMOS

On Wednesday 25 July 2018, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) delivered its highly anticipated opinion on organisms obtained by mutagenesis (New Breeding Techniques - NBT). This decision opens the door to uncertain consequences that could be harmful for European farmers.

This decision follows a question from the French *Conseil d'Etat* referred in 2016 asking whether organisms obtained by new genetic modification techniques that do not use transgenesis – sometimes referred to as "hidden GMOs" – are subject to the Directive of 12 March 2001 imposing measures of precaution, evaluation and traceability of GMOs in the environment.

This directive provides that GMOs must be authorised after a risk assessment for human health and the environment and subject them to traceability, labelling and surveillance requirements.

Advocate General Bobek delivered his conclusions on 18 January stating that NBTs are not subject to the GMO Directive. He pointed out that Member States are free to adopt measures regulating such bodies provided that they do so in compliance with the general obligations deriving from EU law.

On 25 July, the ECJ's opinion was a surprise for many as it took a different direction than the conclusions of Advocate General Bobek to consider that organisms obtained by new techniques of mutagenesis are GMOs within the meaning of the GMO Directive, to the extent that mutagenesis techniques and methods alter the genetic material of an organism in a way that does not occur naturally. The requirements of this directive effectively sanction them in the EU, thus restricting access to many innovations in genetic improvement!

The ECJ also specifies that organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques that have been traditionally used for various applications and whose safety has been proven for a long time are exempted from these obligations, given that the

Member States may submit them, within the frame of EU law, to the Directive or other obligations. The opinion states further that the GMO Directive also applies to organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques that appeared after its adoption.

Environmental NGOs (Greenpeace, IFOAM EU, Beyond GM and Slow Food International) have welcomed this decision claiming that the Commission and the Member States must now ensure that all new GMOs are fully tested, labelled and that field trials are subject to GMO rules.

Copa-Cogeca, as well as EuropaBio, regret this interpretation and warn against the *"risk that European agriculture will be isolated from the benefits of innovative development vis-à-vis the rest of the world"*.

At French level, various agricultural organisations, including AGPM and FNSEA, have taken note of **this decision, which has serious consequences for both citizens and European agriculture, and intend to sound the alarm:** *"An agriculture that lacks varietal innovation won't be able to face the considerable climatic and environmental challenges and meet the expectations of the consumers who are notably demanding an agriculture using less phytosanitary products"*. For UFS (French seed association), the consequences on European plant research will be very detrimental for researchers, seed companies and farmers.

CEPM is following closely the fallout from this decision and is positioning itself for the development of sustainable and innovative solutions for maize producers!

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS : TOWARDS A ROADMAP

Delegated and implementing acts setting the scientific criteria determining endocrine disruptors entered into force respectively on 10 May 2018 for the PPP Regulation and on 7 June 2018 for the Biocides Regulation.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the criteria, on 7 June 2018 EFSA and ECHA published together with the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) a **Guidance on identifying endocrine disruptors**.

The Guidance presents various points of interest:

- Presentation of epidemiological and field studies as well as validated techniques for the characterisation of endocrine disruption ;
- Description of how to regroup, evaluate and consider in information contained in evaluations of substances suspected of altering the endocrine system;
- Facilitation of a coherent implementation of the criteria on endocrine disruptors.

In addition, on 21 June 2018, the European Commission, published a **Roadmap « Towards a**

more comprehensive EU framework on endocrine disruptors », in preparation of a future **Commission Communication** on a general framework on endocrine disruptors. The publication of the Communication was initially planned on 25 July, only 6 days after the deadline for comments on the Roadmap, which says a lot on how seriously the Commission takes stakeholders' input to public consultations. This Communication will include more information on the Commission's future legislative or non-legislative initiatives. The Communication was not published on 25 July in the end and was postponed until after the end of the summer break, due to continuing disagreement between DG SANTE, GROW, ENVI and AGRI on the nature of the document (general framework or more ambitious strategy), which hindered the written procedure.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER REUSE : A SOLUTION FOR FARMERS?

The European Commission published on 28 May 2018 a Regulation proposal to stimulate and facilitate water reuse in the EU for agricultural irrigation. For the Commission, the new rules will help farmers make the best use of non-potable wastewater, alleviating water scarcity whilst protecting the environment and consumers. The proposal will also define a common framework in a field where practices and regulations vary depending on the Member State.

The Commission proposes **minimum requirements for the reuse of treated waste water from urban waste water treatment plants**, covering microbiological elements (for example, levels of E. coli bacteria) and monitoring requirements for routine and validation monitoring. Setting minimum requirements will guarantee that reclaimed water produced in accordance with the new rules will be safe for irrigation.

It is also proposing **risk management** whereby any additional hazards must be addressed for water reuse to be safe

Finally, it increases transparency. The public will have access to information online about water reuse practice in their Member States.

The CEPM carefully monitors this file, which is an interesting alternative for the development of water resources. A balance has to be found between health requirements and costs to respect these requirements, and the question of the sharing of responsibilities.

The proposal is part of the Commission's 2018 Work Programme, following up on the Circular Economy Action Plan, and completes the existing EU legal framework on water and foodstuffs. It complements the ongoing modernisation of the European economy, the Common Agricultural Policy and climate change ambitions.

PROTEIN PLAN: COMMON INTERESTS FOR CEREALS AND PROTEINS

The EU needs a long-term strategy to address its protein deficit and reduce its reliance on protein imports from non-EU countries, mainly soy, to feed its livestock. CEPM believes that cereals also have a role to play in this debate.

The EU produces only 35% of its needs in protein-rich products, placing it in a weak position on the market. This weak position is only amplified by the strict regulation on GMOs and NBTs, which hampers the competitiveness of European farmers.

Following the "Soya Declaration" in mid-2017, the Commission organised a public consultation in February 2018 on the outlines of a European Protein Plan, to which CEPM responded, as well as thematic workshops and bilateral meetings. The Council discussed this subject in February 2018, with broad support for an initiative on the subject. The European Parliament adopted in plenary on 17 April 2018 the own-initiative report by MEP Denanot on the "European Strategy for the Promotion of Protein Crops - Encouraging the Production of Protein and Leguminous in the European Agriculture Sector".

On 22-23 November 2018, at a high-level conference on plant proteins in Austria, the Commission will present its 'Protein Plan for Europe', which will focus on:

- research and innovation in the field of plant proteins;
- the agronomic challenges and environmental benefits of protein crops;
- supply / value chain development for plant proteins in the EU;
- the marketing potential for EU plant proteins in different market segments.

If the production in Europe of protein crops like soy is of interest, it cannot be the only answer to solve the EU protein deficit. Cereals such as maize, which are also sources of protein, must play a role in this debate, particularly with regard to animal feed and biofuels. **By including proteins consumed in animal feed via cereals in the protein balance, EU self-sufficiency climbs to 60%.**

US TRADE POLICY: THE CASE OF SPANISH OLIVES

CEPM and other EU farming associations are very concerned about the impact of the free trade agreement with Mercosur, but concerns are also shifting to the United States.

On 17 July 2017, the US Department of Commerce launched an anti-dumping investigation on grants awarded under the CAP to Spanish olives. On 10 July 2018, the US International Trade Commission issued its opinion, **confirming that US companies have suffered damages as a result of exports of Spanish table olives**. The opinion provides for an average countervailing duty of 14.75% compared to the provisional rate of 4.47% set in November and an average anti-dumping duty of 20%, compared to 17.13% provisionally established in January. The definitive measures have been imposed since 24 July.

The European Commission *"deplores this US approach and in particular the way in which the investigation was conducted"* and adds that *"these protectionist measures are not justified, neither on process nor on substance"*, in

so far as they target *"a high-quality and successful EU product popular with US consumers"*, and that *"clearly do not cause any harm to US producers"*. The European Commission will consider "all possible options". The European Council also declared on 28 June 2018 that *"the EU must respond to all actions of a clearly protectionist nature, including those calling into question the Common Agricultural Policy"*.

Exports of Spanish olives have already fallen by 42% since the launch of the anti-dumping investigation in July 2017. But beyond the olive sector, this sets a dangerous precedent for the entire European agricultural sector and grants under the CAP.

THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER INAUGURATES AN EXPERIMENTAL STATION

The Portuguese Agriculture Minister chaired the inauguration ceremony of the Training and Demonstration Centre for maize producers, on 10 July, at the Antonio Teixeira experimental station in Coruche, and congratulated ANPROMIS at the occasion of its 30th birthday.

The Minister declared that *“the Training Centre inaugurated today clearly demonstrates the dynamism of ANPROMIS and how to look forward, towards a future targeted on production and information dissemination, without which there cannot be prosperity for farmers.”*



CEPM Members

GERMANY – *Deutsches Maiskomitee (DMK)*

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

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

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

HONGRIE – *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 pestovateľov a spracovateľov kukurice (ZPSK)*

CEPM member meetings

– 3rd quarter 2018

✓ Germany :

- 30 August 2018 : field demonstration” straw and stubble management after maize”, Senden.
- 4-5 September 2018 : European Maize Meeting, Gembloux, Belgium.
- 18 September 2018 : round table “variety testing grain maize”, Münster.

✓ Poland :

- 20 August 2018: workshop for employees of breeding companies and maize retailers, Coforu Słupia Wielka.
- September 2018: Maize Days (4.09.2018 : Kobyelzyce, province Dolny Śląsk / 7.9.2018 : Osiny - IUNG Puławy, province Lublin / 9.9.2018 : PODR Szepietowo, province Podlasie / 14.9.2018 : Słupia Wielka near Środa Wlkp, province Wielkopolska).

✓ Portugal :

- 10 July 2018: ANPROMIS Maize Days.

✓ Romania :

- 9 August 2018 : Conference APPR ‘The fight against Tanymecus in maize’ – event in APPR field trials.
- 20 September 2018 : APPR maize day, SOUTH Romania.
- 26 September 2018 : Plant breeding innovation - The path for the future, APPR-ABR- AISR- USA EMBASSY.
- 2 October 2018 : APPR Maize Day, NORTH Romania.

Civil Dialogue Groups

- ✓ **07-09-2018** : CDG ARABLES CROPS
- ✓ **11-09-2018** : Joint meeting of the “Expert Group for Horizontal Questions Concerning the CAP” and the “CDG CAP”
- ✓ **05-10-2018** : CDG DIRECT PAYMENTS AND GREENING
- ✓ **26-10-2018** : CDG INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE