

NewsletterCEPM



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

N° 18 – October- December 2018

CAP post-2020 – critical perspectives from the co-legislators (p.2)

> Editorial

2018 is ending with significant uncertainty for the future of the European project: major discussions still need to be held on questions such as the budget and Brexit, the CAP is only at the beginning of its legislative process...

2019 will be a major year for the European project, with elections in the European Parliament which will occupy most of the first semester, and a new Commission for the end of the year, and for which the campaign seem to have already started...

So, what should we wish for 2019?

A beautiful Europe, at the service of its citizens, and in our case, a Europe that allows the European agriculture (and maize in particular) to express its full potential to the benefit of the economy, of the environment, and of the whole European society!

We wish you happy holidays and our best wishes for 2019!

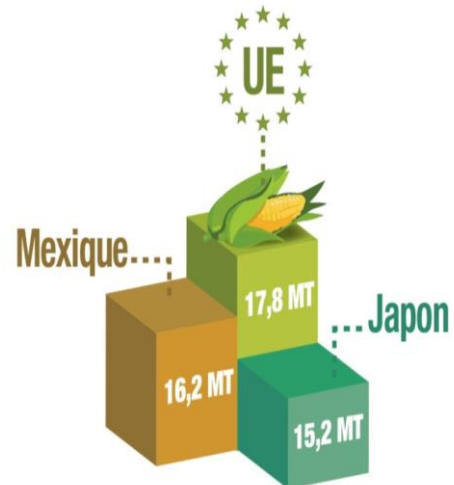
Céline Duroc,
CEPM Permanent Delegate
AGPM Director General

Summary

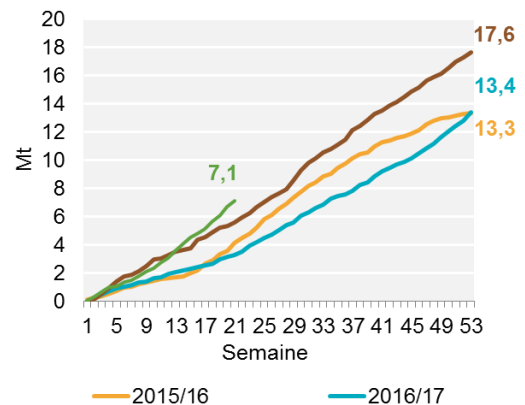
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KEY FIGURES:

The European Union, top global maize importer for the 2nd year in a row



Total imports on 18/11/2018 (July-June crop year)



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CAP POST-2020 : CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE PARLIAMENT

The European Commission published on 1st June its legislative proposals for the future CAP post-2020. The European Parliament published in early November its draft reports on the Commission's three legislative proposals.

Publication of the EP's draft reports

The three post-2020 CAP proposals were attributed to three different rapporteurs in the European Parliament's AGRI committee:

- **Proposal on national strategic plans:** Esther Herranz García (EPP) in AGRI and Giovanni La Via (EPP) in ENVI
- **Proposal on financing, managing and controlling 2021–2027:** Ulrike Müller (ALDE)
- **Proposal on the CMO:** Eric Andrieu (S&D)

The three draft reports prepared by the three AGRI rapporteurs were published end October/early November to be examined by the colleagues in AGRI, who in turn prepared their own amendments before 5 December.

Concerning the proposal on national strategic plans, rapporteur Esther Herranz García adopted a critical stance towards the renationalisation risks, without questioning the philosophy of the new delivery model. Her amendments are mostly centred on the implementation of guarantees against a race to the bottom or distortions between Member States. For instance, she proposes to scrap the "performance bonuses" proposed by the Commission, arguing they would actually be used as hidden sanctions. She also proposes more flexibility on direct payments thresholds according to farm size, and to postpone the implementation of the national strategic plans to 2023, highlighting the considerable administrative implications of this "paradigm shift".

Council critical of new national strategic plans

On 19 November, on the basis on broad reflection axes prepared by the Austrian presidency of the Council, the national agriculture ministers expressed their concerns concerning the Commission's proposals and in particular concerning the national strategic plans. The

principle of granting additional payments on the basis of performance and not purely on the basis of respecting the rules would lead to a considerable administrative burden for farmers. Member States also defend the principle of a transition period beyond 2021, in order to allow for a gradual implementation of the new rules. However, the Member States broadly support the Commission's proposal of strengthening the crisis reserve for farmers.

In summary, for Agriculture Commissioner Hogan, the debates in Council show a consensus on the spirit of the reform (simplification, modernisation, subsidiarity). The many disagreements on the implementation of the new system must however still be resolved.

CEPM mobilised for an ambitious CAP

Will the Institutions be able to reach a deal before the EU elections, as hoped by the Commission? This is not certain considering the amount of work ahead of us. In any case, CEPM is still mobilised to meet rapporteurs in particular, and renew the ambition of maize growers on the challenges the future CAP aims to resolve. CEPM defends a real safety net for market crises; a basic payment to compensate the respect of EU production standards that is not remunerated by the market; adapted risk management tools, and a productive and innovative investment policy. Concerning the national strategic plans, CEPM defends:

- Justified subsidiarity for the environment and the climate, but to be better framed for direct payments
- A conditionality mechanism staying within the definition of the currently existing greening system
- A 15% cap for transfers between pillars
- Giving priority to risk management and investment support.

THE COMMISSION PRESENTS ITS NEW BIOECONOMY STRATEGY

On 11 October 2018, the Commission published its updated « Bioeconomy Strategy », previously published in 2012, and judged to be insufficiently ambitious.

In its updated strategy, the Commission gives a table summarising its 3 main actions to be launched by 2019 (detailed in a total of 14 sub-actions):

Action 1 – Strengthen and scale-up the bio-based sectors, unlock investments and markets

This action includes the launch of a thematic investment platform as well as the development of standards, new sustainable biorefineries and bio-based, recyclable and marine-biodegradable substitutes to fossil fuel based materials.

Action 2 – Deploy local bioeconomies rapidly across Europe

This action includes a strategic deployment agenda for sustainable food and farming systems, forestry and bio-based production in a circular economy.

Action 3 – Understand the ecological boundaries of the bioeconomy

This action aims at enhancing knowledge on the bioeconomy and building monitoring and reporting capacities on the assets and limitations of bioeconomy.

On 22 October, Commissioner Hogan announced that Member States would have to present their plans for a bio-based economy in order to receive the Commission's greenlight in the national strategic plan under the future CAP.

NEWS FLASH IN THE EUROPEAN AGENDA

PEST Committee

Co-rapporteurs Nobert Lins (EPP, DE) and Bart Staes (Greens / EFA, BE) published their draft own-initiative report on 17 September. A vote took place in the committee on 6 December with 1141 amendments tabled and the report was adopted.

Compromise amendments called for a stricter application of the precautionary principle in the European pesticide authorisation process, broader powers for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to control the effects of chemicals even after approval, as well as better public access to scientific studies. A plenary vote on the conclusions and recommendations is scheduled for 17 January 2019.

General Food Law

On 11 April 2018, the European Commission published a proposal to review the regulation on General Food Law, following the European citizens' initiative on glyphosate and notably the concerns regarding the transparency of scientific studies used in the evaluation of pesticides.

The ENVI committee adopted its report on 27 November 2018 (43 votes in favour, 16 against and 1 abstention). A plenary vote to finalise the European Parliament's position took place on 11 December in Strasbourg.

Negotiations with the Council will begin with the aim of adopting the proposed law before the European elections of May 2019.

EU-Mercosur

The adventure continues for the EU-Mercosur trade agreement. On 22 November, MEP João Pimenta Lopes (GUE / NGL) presented a written question to the Council asking for a clear answer as to its intentions to withdraw from the negotiations.

On 27 November, Mr. John Clarke (Director of International Affairs at DG AGRI) stated that it was unlikely that a trade agreement would be reached notably following the 36th round of negotiations, where there was no substantial progress. The EU and Mercosur will meet again in January before the elections in Brazil, but the outlook remains limited, especially in the face of sensitive issues such as agriculture.

CEPM maintains its position on the subject which is that this agreement creates a threat for EU maize and for the sectors that use it.

COMMUNICATION TOWARDS A COMPLETE EU FRAMEWORK ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

Published on 7 November and led by the DG GROW (Directorate General in charge of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Policies), the Communication follows on the commitment taken last year by the European Commission on the criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors in the fields of pesticides and biocides. It addresses the concerns expressed by the European Parliament and the Council and follows-up on the 7th Environment Action Program.

The approach of the European Union will continue to be firmly grounded in scientific evidence and the application of the precautionary principle. It aims to:

- **Minimise our overall exposure** to endocrine disruptors;
- **Accelerate the development of an in-depth research base** for effective and forward-looking decision-making within Horizon Europe (framework for the future research and technological development program);
- **Organisation of an annual forum with scientists, public and private stakeholders** to exchange information and good practices, identify challenges and build synergies;
- **Increased support for the work of relevant international organisations**, including the OECD (responsible for developing international guidelines for endocrine disruptor testing);

- **Launch of a single website dedicated to endocrine disruptors** with all information currently available on various websites run by the Commission and EU agencies.

The Commission will therefore start a comprehensive evaluation of the current legislation by drawing up a quality assessment to determine whether it meets the objectives of protecting human health and the environment. A public consultation will also be planned. It will analyse the interactions between different provisions and approaches, gaps, inconsistencies or possible synergies and assess their collective impacts, in terms of costs and benefits, on human health and the environment, on the competitiveness of farmers and the environment, the EU industry and international trade.

CEPM stands ready to react and closely follows the developments as the aim is to ultimately protect the availability and diversity of phytosanitary solutions.

IRRIGATION : COMMISSION ASSESSING THE INCIDENCE OF THE CAP ON WATER

The Commission published on 29 October 2018 the Roadmap of its REFIT evaluation of the impact of the CAP on water, with conclusions planned to be made public for Q1 2020.

The Commission published on 29 October 2018 its Roadmap detailing the main steps of the REFIT evaluation of the impact of the CAP on water.

This evaluation, to be launched in December 2018, will focus on the impact of the CAP on the good use and management of water, in particular support to investments to conserve water resources, improve irrigation infrastructures and techniques, and a better management of pesticides and fertilisers in view of their consequences on water.

It was possible to submit general comments on the Roadmap until 26 November, but a more structured public consultation will be published between July and September 2019. Discussions will also take place in the Direct Payments CDG and the Environmental Aspects of Agriculture CDG. Interviews and questionnaires will be

sent by the Commission to stakeholders identified as particularly relevant. The results of the REFIT evaluation of the Water Framework Directive, currently ongoing, will also be used in this exercise.

Finally, the conclusions of the evaluation should be published in Q1 2020. They will also be used in the framework of the broader evaluation of the CAP, which is due by the Commission before 31 December 2021 and which will be one of the pillar of future discussions on the future agricultural policy of the EU.

The CEPM will participate in debates through platforms made available by the Commission (CDG, consultations...) in order to promote and defend the position of European maize growers on irrigation, which is a vital topic for maize taking into account the clichés on this issue.

STATE OF PLAY ON THE FUTURE OF THE PESTICIDES REGULATION

As part of the "REFIT" evaluation of the Plant Protection Products Regulation 1107/2009 ("Pesticide Regulation") and the evaluation study carried out between 2017 and 2018, the final study report was published on 18 October 2018.

This study is based on data collected through case studies; stakeholder consultation as well as a public consultation in which CEPM participated, sharing its position on the certification system. The main conclusions of the study are as follows:

- While the Pesticide Regulation has allowed for the harmonisation of registration procedures for active substances and plant protection products, problems persist such as lack of capacity and resources in the Member States and EFSA.
- Concerning Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), the main difficulties relate to the review procedure under Article 12 and the provisions on the setting of MRLs for non-chemical active substances.

The European Commission's REFIT assessment, based on the results of this study, is expected to be finalised in the first half of 2019.

It is in this context that a coalition of NGOs and European experts "Citizens for science in pesticide Regulation" including Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and ClientEarth have published a manifesto signed by more than 100 organisations, institutions of civil society and 25 experts. The manifesto calls for:

- A priority given to public health, the environment and sustainable agriculture;
- Complete data, public, up-to-date and free of industrial bias;
- Monitoring the integrity and effectiveness of European pesticide policy.

It also calls for transparency of the debates between the Commission and the Member States and the prohibition of imports of products containing unapproved pesticide residues in order to avoid unfair competition.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF NBT?

On 25 July 2018, the ECJ considered - to everyone's surprise - that the organisms obtained by new mutagenesis techniques are GMOs within the meaning of the GMO Directive. It also specifies that organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques which 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.

However, the "Group of Chief Scientific Advisors" of the European Commission Scientific Advice Mechanism ("SAM") has issued a statement on 13 November 2018 on the legal status of products derived from new techniques of mutagenesis, consequently adopting a circular reasoning.

According to its opinion, the techniques are precise and only cause mutations identical to natural mutations, so they create products that can appear naturally. As a result, new products are less risky than those obtained by old techniques. And most importantly, being similar to what nature can do, this detection will not allow to differentiate

between them. It would seem, therefore, that the European position would not be final.

The SAM therefore clearly recommends that the European regulation on GMOs be revised. This recommendation is set in the context of discussions on the international regulation on GMOs that took place in Egypt from 17 to 29 November between 171 countries that have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

CEPM continues to monitor the situation closely and reaffirms its commitment to developing sustainable and innovative solutions for maize producers!

2ND EUROPEAN SORGHUM CONGRESS : GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR A CROP WITH A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

« The future is going with sorghum. » This promising theme mobilised more than 200 experts from the whole world during the 2nd European Sorghum Congress, which was held in Milan on 7-8 November. During 2 days, researchers, producers, manufacturers... put in common their knowledge, experience and questions. All agree: the development of sorghum is a chance for Europe, as this crop offers many assets to answers to tomorrow's economic and environmental challenges.

“As actors of the sorghum value chain, we have to act together to find new and sustainable outlets. Our priority must be constant production both in terms of quantity and of quality” said Daniel Peyraube, Sorghum ID President, in introduction.

The 2nd Congress highlighted sorghum's assets to meet tomorrow's challenges, as many opportunities that this young sector must seize to guarantee a sustainable development in Europe.

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 – *Vetömag 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 members' meetings Q4 2018

- ✓ **CEPM :**
 - 6 November 2018 : Milan Board Meeting
- ✓ **France :**
 - 7-8 November 2018 : European Sorghum Congress - Sorghum ID, Milan
 - 21-22 November 2018 : MAIZ'EUROP' Maize Congress, Mulhouse
- ✓ **Bulgaria :**
 - 29-30 November 2018: 8th national seminar on agriculture "The production of Bulgarian cereals at a crossroads? », Plovdiv, Bulgaria.
 - September-October 2018 : National information campaign on CAP 2020 with the Institute of Agro-strategies and Innovation
- ✓ **Romania :**
 - 5 October 2018: APPR Maize Day, Lasi
 - 9 October 2018 : APPR- French Chamber of Commerce in Romania: CAP post 2020
 - 1st November 2018 : Conferences at the Indagra-APPR, Exhibiton in Bucharest :
 - “Impact of the post-2020 CAP on farms in Romania”,
 - “Agriculture's need for innovation through NBTs »
 - 2 November 2018 : Support Project for Agricultural high schools in Romania

Civil Dialogue Groups

- ✓ **05-10-2018** : GDC DIRECT PAYMENTS AND GREENING
- ✓ **16-10-2018** : GDC IAA
- ✓ **07-11-2018** : GDC CAP
- ✓ **13-11-2018** : GDC ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- ✓ **21-11-2018** : GDC ARABLE CROPS - SUGAR & STARCH
- ✓ **11-12-2018** : GDC ARABLE CROPS - RICE