



## CAP post-2020 – no plenary vote before the European elections (p.2)

### > Editorial

The EU decided in April 2018 to transform the moratorium against 3 neonicotinoid substances into a full ban, with irreparable consequences on the farming world as there are no alternatives on certain uses.

Should European farmers just accept to work with an ever-decreasing toolbox of available plant protection solutions? Accept to see their own competitiveness take a hit compared to their international competitors, today through the General Food Law or tomorrow through the revision of the Plant Protection Products Regulation? Accept seeing the European Union go back to the agriculture of the past and let European laboratories working on innovative techniques such as NBTs (New Breeding Techniques) move to America or Asia?

An alliance, “**Agriculture & Progress**”, was recently created by the sugar sector (CIBE and CEFS) and CEPM to take a stance in favour of a sustainable environment for arable crops in terms of access to plant protection products. This initiative defends the use by European farmers of tools, products and techniques that are safe and reliable, for a healthy and sustainable agriculture in Europe.

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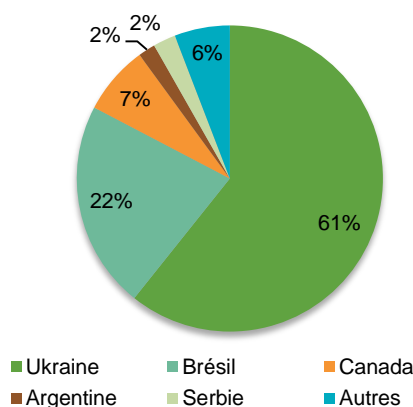
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### KEY FIGURES:

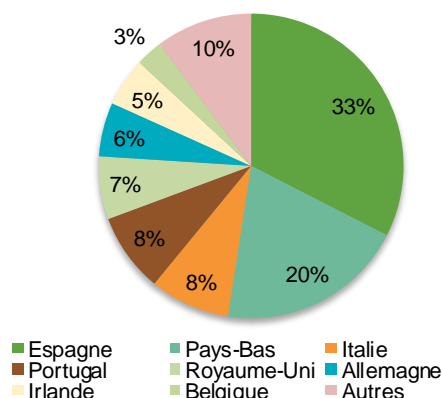
#### Origin of EU imports from 01/07/18 to 25/03/19

Source: DG Agri



#### Main EU importers from 01/07/18 to 25/03/19

Source: DG Agri



## **CAP – DEBATES ONGOING BUT WITH UNLIKELY CHANCES OF A PLENARY VOTE BEFORE THE ELECTIONS**

**At the European Parliament, in the AGRI committee, the three CAP post-2020 proposals which were published by the Commission in June 2018 were attributed to three rapporteurs who each published their report in early November. On this basis, their AGRI committee colleagues tabled amendments in early December. The vote on the National Strategic Plans in the AGRI committee is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**

Regarding the proposal on the National Strategic Plans, which is the basis of the future architecture of the CAP, it was shared between two rapporteurs: Esther Herranz García (EPP) in AGRI and Giovanni La Via (EPP) in ENVI.

In AGRI, the rapporteur Esther Herranz García adopted a critical stance regarding the risks of renationalisation, without however questioning the philosophy of the new model. Her amendments mostly focus on the implementation of barriers to avoid a race to the bottom and distortions between the Member States. She also proposes to postpone the implementation of the National Strategic Plans to 2023, underlining the considerable administrative implications of this “paradigm shift”. Further work led to the formulation of 123 compromise

amendments, focused on topics such as eco-schemes, coupled support, transfers between pillars or payment thresholds. The vote on this text will be held on 2 April.

The ENVI committee however already adopted its opinion on 14 February, to the satisfaction of green NGOs. For CEPM, the proposal of a 4-year crop rotation is not acceptable, and a more balanced position is expected from the AGRI committee: maintain practices recognised as equivalent to crop rotation, and give the initiative to Member States to set the definition of rotation in their Strategic Plan.

## **US / CHINA TRADE RELATIONS: ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR!**

**The United States and China are close to an agreement to end the negotiations initiated last year by US President Donald Trump following additional customs duties imposed on Chinese imports. The United States is asking China to facilitate its exports on its market, especially for agricultural products.**

The stakes are very high for US farmers: the United States exported about a third of its soybean production to China in 2017 for a value of \$14 billion. These exports suffered a blow in 2018 as a result of increased customs duty on soybeans and other agricultural products. As a gesture towards mediation, China pledged in December 2018 to increase its agricultural orders.

At the same time, on the WTO side, an arbitration committee condemned on February 28 China's excessive support granted to wheat and rice producers from 2012 to 2015. This complaint was filed by the United States under the Obama administration which considered that China had not respected its commitment to "facilitate" the opening of its agricultural market to foreign competition.

On 13 September 2016, the United States requested consultations with China on certain measures by which China appears to have provided domestic support to

agricultural producers, in particular wheat producers, Indica rice, Japonica rice and corn.

The Committee agreed with Washington, except for maize, finding that "in the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, China provided domestic aid [...] in the form of market price support to producers of wheat, Indica rice and Japonica rice that exceeds the level of its specified commitment".

On the other hand, the panel of experts did not address the issue of Chinese support to maize producers, considering that this measure had expired before the United States applied for a ruling on this dispute.

These elements, and the commercial strategies of the world's two largest powers, remind us that they prioritise their economy and their production first ... A path that the EU would be well advised to follow, even as it consolidates its position as the leading importer of corn in the world at the expense of its own production!

## A LACK OF CLARITY AT EUROPEAN LEVEL FOR NBTs

While the European Commission had seemed to have blown a wave of support for NBTs following the advice of its scientific committee ("SAM" for Science Advice Mechanism), it now seems that a general confusion reigns as to the events to follow. This situation stems in particular from the decision of the European Court of Justice in July, the context of European political renewal but also from a lack of information about the realities of field crops.

As a reminder, the opinion of the SAM Committee stated that new genetic modification techniques are precise and only cause mutations identical to natural mutations. This is a clear recommendation for the revision of the European Regulation on GMOs.

In January, the European Commission said in a debate with MEPs that no legislation was planned during the current political mandate.

However, it seems that the Commission is currently in discussion with the Member States on the subject, in particular in order to clarify the interpretation of the CJEU. A study on the possibilities and challenges in detecting plant products for food and feed obtained by new mutagenesis techniques has been commissioned from the European Parliament Research Centre and the European Union Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed. Its release is scheduled for late March 2019.

It is necessary to inform the European Commission as well as the stakeholders of the issues at stake for the production of maize and to avoid putting a brake on the development of durable and innovative solutions.

Indeed, a legal framework should and could combine cutting edge scientific expertise while guaranteeing consumers a healthy, sustainable and high-quality maize. New mutagenesis techniques are essential complementary tools that will help meet societal demand which aims to reconcile agricultural production with sustainability and safety. It is urgent for the European Union to realise that investment in terms of research and development as well as the time required to develop these new technologies are considerable. The uncertainty currently generated by this context risks depriving maize producers of a powerful and innovative genetic lever.

CEPM takes note of these developments and is mobilising in support of a new specific regulatory framework that responds to the particularities of NBTs and maintains European competitiveness. It puts forward its commitment - especially through the platform Agriculture & Progress.

## RED2 DELEGATED ACT – RISKS OF LOOPHOLES FOR PALM OIL IF THE CRITERIA ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH

**The RED2 directive, following the RED, gives a legislative framework to the use of biofuels produced with food agricultural raw materials with an ILUC effect, by capping their contribution to the renewable energies objective in transport.**

In the beginning of February 2019, the European Commission presented its draft delegated act on biofuels presenting a high ILUC risk and on certification of biofuels with a low ILUC risk. Biofuels produced with palm oil were targeted in the spirit of the RED2 Directive, but the "low-risk" certification criteria could be counter-productive. Indeed, in its current version, the delegated act risks opening loopholes in the prevention of expansion into lands with high carbon storage, and a risk of maximisation ("deadweight effect") or fraud, on the one hand if small producers are considered by nature to be low-risk for ILUC, and on the other hand if the chosen criteria are too broad and too difficult to control.

CEPM is therefore against any automatic exemption for small producers, especially considering small producers can be audited by certification schemes through group audits. CEPM also defends longer time criteria (10 years instead of 5) to define land as unused or abandoned. Finally, CEPM is against retroactivity for programmes, which would lead to additional production. Programmes should only be taken into account from 2019, the year RED2 was adopted.

This proposal was open to comments from stakeholders until 8 March. CEPM submitted comments on the proposal and took part in the stakeholder meeting organised by the European Commission in Brussels on 5 March.

## 1ST IBERIAN MAIZE CONGRESS 2019

The 1st Iberian Maize Congress was organised in Lisbon on 13-14 February. 650 participants from Portugal and Spain, and a panel of 35 high-level speakers reaffirmed the importance of the irrigated cultivation of maize in the South of Europe, leading to job creations, socio-economic development and giving opportunities to the inhabitants of rural areas. A word of welcome to the event was given by CEPM President Daniel PEYRAUBE.



Daniel PEYRAUBE, CEPM President



M. José Luís LOPES, ANPROMIS President



José Luís ROMEO, AGPME President

### TOWARDS A GENERALISATION OF THE BEE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT IN PESTICIDES EVALUATIONS

Towards end January, the European Commission announced its intention to put to the vote of Member States in SCoPAFF its proposal to include in the standard evaluation procedure of pesticides a version of the “Bee Guidance Document” – up until now used by EFSA in the framework of the neonicotinoid moratorium. The industry immediately denounced the unrealistic demands included in this document in terms of scientific protocols, while green NGOs were not satisfied either and criticised how “watered-down” the reworked version was compared to the original document, with only a “very small portion” being kept as is, according to Green MEP Bart Staes.

Concerning specifically the three neonicotinoid substances, in the framework of the European moratorium which has a very significant impact on maize-growers, possibilities for derogations in cases of emergencies and absence of alternatives have been planned. Commissioner Andriukaitis announced in a letter to Greenpeace his intention to end the “unjustified” derogations, faced with environmental activists denouncing “abuses of the system”. Derogations have so far been granted to Romania, Hungary, Lithuania and Bulgaria, after an official request by the Member State and validation in SCoPAFF.

#### CEPM members

GERMANY – *Deutsches Maiskomitee (DMK)*  
 BULAGRIA - *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)*

#### Meetings of CEPM and its member organisations

- ✓ **CEPM :**
  - **12 February 2019 :** Board Meeting - Lisbon
  - **26 June 2019 in Brussels :** European Maize Congress (General Assembly + Board Meeting and public conference)
- ✓ **Portugal :**
  - **13 & 14 February 2019 :** 1st Iberian Maize Congress co-organised by ANPROMIS & AGPME
- ✓ **Romania :**
  - **30 January 2019 :** APPR Annual Congress, 4th edition, Bucharest
- ✓ **Germany :**
  - **18-27 January 2019:** International Green Week, Berlin (DMK in Hall 3.2).
  - **18 February 2019:** Working group on field trials, Hanover
  - **20 February 2019 :** Meeting with the German Maize Seeds Industry, Hanover
  - **1<sup>st</sup> March 2019:** Board Meeting DMK, Würzburg
  - **27-28 March 2019 :** Working Group Silage Conservation and Animal Feed, Bad Sassendorf
- ✓ **Civil Dialogue Groups :**
  - **28-06-2019 :** Arable crops - rice
  - **25-06-2019 :** Arable crops – cotton, flax, hemp, dried fodder, energy and non-energy crops
  - **12-04-2019 :** Arable crops - sugar
  - **09-04-2019 :** International aspects of agriculture
  - **29-03-2019 :** Direct payments and greening
  - **08-03-2019 :** CAP
  - **01-03-2019 :** Arable crops - COP and seeds
  - **25-02-2019 :** Joint meeting Environment/Climate Change / CAP