

# Newsletter CEPM

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



CEPM  
maiz'EUROP'

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## CEPM defends the position of maize-growers in the EU's trade policy

### > Editorial: Green Deal and low carbon farming

The European Union's objective of carbon neutrality in 2050 is not realistic without general mobilization. Recalling that agriculture and forests are, along with the oceans, the only carbon sinks on our planet Earth, the Commission, in its "Farm to Fork" strategy, plans to involve farmers and foresters in carbon sequestration.

The "EU Carbon Farming Initiative", which can be translated as "The European Initiative for Low Carbon Agriculture" describes a series of good agronomic practices to capture carbon in the soil and plant roots. Maize is one of the crops, if not THE crop, which by virtue of its growing and harvesting conditions makes the greatest contribution to soil enrichment.

The Commission's initiative should therefore be encouraged with the rapid organisation of field studies to analyse the constraints faced by farmers in optimising carbon management on their farms and the benefits that they and society would derive from it. It goes without saying - and some local initiatives already exist - that the societal benefit brought to the community by farmers should be encouraged/rewarded/ remunerated by carbon credits.

The translation of European ambitions within the framework of the CAP should allow agriculture to be considered as part of the solutions and to be valued as such!

It is essential that the Commission and the co-legislators of the Union show innovation in the management of the Green Deal. What is true for carbon is also true for new selection techniques and the use of agricultural inputs.

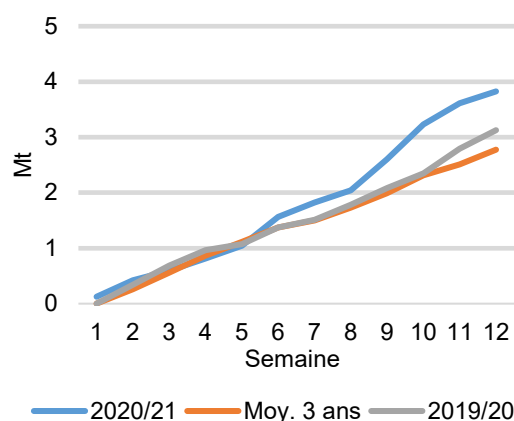
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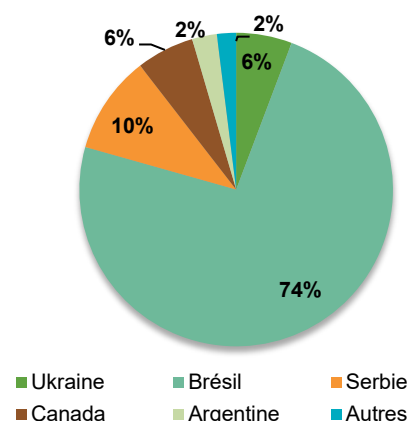
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### MAIZE KEY FIGURES :

Cumulative European imports of corn from 01/07 to 22/09



Origin of European imports of corn from 01/07 to 22/09



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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD MEETING OF CEPM

On 26th May 2020, CEPM held its annual General Assembly followed by a meeting of the Board. In view of the current circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Assembly was held online. In this difficult period of pandemic that we are all experiencing, the President, Daniel PEYRAUBE, wishes first and foremost to ensure that all members and their families are in good health and sincerely hopes that the crisis will be resolved as soon as possible. He pointed out that the European Maize Congress CEPM initially scheduled for 26 & 27 May 2020 at Poznań in Poland and cancelled due to the health crisis, has been postponed to 2021 in Poland.

### Update on Countries

The President, Daniel PEYRAUBE, invited the representatives of the delegations to comment on the market situation in their respective countries: while in Romania and Poland the situation linked to the COVID-19 health crisis is less marked than in other Western European countries (but still not without consequences for the economy), the situation is very serious in Portugal and Italy. In France, in spite of the confinement, the maize leaves the silos well. The ethanol industry has consumed less maize, food manufacturers have incorporated more maize. Germany, too is affected, but coping well. The German Ministry of Agriculture recently presented a strategy for more sustainable agriculture, calling for a strong reduction of pesticides and greater protection of insects and will strongly affect farming practices. For the time being, the health crisis is high on the political agenda of all countries.

CEPM's actions, particularly at European level (European Commission), have progressed steadily, with unavoidable costs. The President, Daniel PEYRAUBE, proposed to hold a debate at this stage to limit expenditure for the 2020 financial year, it being specified that the impact of COVID-19 with the holding of meetings in videoconference format and the cancellation of the European Maize Congress is part of this cost-saving perspective which will be visible in the 2020 financial year.

### Board Meeting Insights

At the board meeting, several issues were discussed, including the Green Deal, the ongoing CAP reform, and the EU Biofuel Strategy.

Importantly, AGPM provided an update on the equivalence of the seed certification system in Ukraine. The European Commission has received an application from Ukraine to recognise the equivalence of its field inspection and certification system for cereal seed. Following this request and after analysis of the Ukrainian legislation in force, and the carrying out of an audit of the field inspection and seed certification system in 2015, the European Commission has concluded that the requirements and the system in force in Ukraine are equivalent to those of the Union and offer the same guarantees as at the European level. On the basis of the conclusions of this audit report, a draft decision to grant this equivalence was submitted on 7 April 2020 to the Parliament and the Council for discussion, and the European Commission submitted this draft for public consultation. Indeed, CEPM believes that this decision, if adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, would have serious economic, social and even environmental consequences for European maize seed producers and asks that this procedure be part of a full procedure based on an impact assessment, which is not the case today. The President, Daniel PEYRAUBE, insists on the importance of the support of CEPM members to relay this position to their respective countries' administrations and to contribute to the public consultation, as has been done by the AGPM.

The next meeting will take place on 7 October 2020 in Paris.

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION OF MYCOTOXIN THRESHOLDS

The European Commission has opened a consultation with the various European agricultural organizations concerning the revision of the DON and T2-HT2 thresholds for all cereals and cereal products concerned. Maize is not exempt from these revisions, with thresholds proposed at:

1. T2-HT2: 100 µg/kg for unprocessed maize and 50 µg/kg for maize to the final consumer, and for maize milling products.
2. DON: 1250 µg/kg for unprocessed maize (excl. maize for wet extraction starch), 500 µg/kg for maize to the final consumer, and 750 µg/kg for maize milling products.

It should be noted that for DON the proposed thresholds do not take into account the modified forms, and that for concerns T2 HT2, the thresholds proposed in the CEPM recommendations are the regulatory thresholds.

In addition, CEPM is part of the European MycoKey project (Horizon 2020). One of the results of this European project is the creation of a free app, the "[MycoKey App](#)" which predicts according to the local weather and integrated predictive models the rates of mycotoxins in wheat and maize.

## CEPM DEFENDS MAIZE GROWERS IN THE UNION'S TRADE POLICY

*The European Commission has opened a public consultation on trade agreements, "A renewed trade policy for a stronger Europe", until September 16. CEPM participated in this opportunity to contribute to the evaluation of European policies by putting forward strong arguments.*

Indeed, while the current crisis linked to the COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of the European Union's food sovereignty and autonomy, European maize producers expect the revision of the Union's trade policy to establish strong and equivalent rules for all. At present, maize farmers are, in fact, faced with unfair and distorted competition, not respecting the same environmental and sanitary constraints. In the same way, access to the means of production is different (phytosanitary products, genetics, etc.) and the tools for protecting the European market are no longer adapted and less and less protective. Maize production is nevertheless of paramount importance for many sectors of the European economy: animal feed, human food (in particular through sweet corn), industry (semolina, starch) but also for its energy and protein independence through the production of ethanol.

EU corn imports have increased sharply since the beginning of 2010, with a rate that has been accelerating since 2017/2018, making the EU the world's leading importer of corn, particularly from Ukraine. Customs duties, negotiated under the GATT

agreements in 1994, are ineffective and weakened by a multiplication of trade concessions (WTO quota, quotas for Ukraine, Serbia, Canada, Mercosur, etc.), which are particularly devastating for the sweet corn industry. **In this context, the EU must stop granting concessions under bilateral agreements, revise the intervention price and trigger safeguard measures. The EU must also maintain and facilitate the implementation of anti-dumping measures to preserve the European market, as is the case with Thai sweet corn.**

While the European Union has a virtuous agriculture and wants to strengthen its ambition in terms of agro-ecological transition, it is important that European maize growers can face international competition subject to equivalent rules and requirements, particularly regarding access to the means of production (atrazine, neonicotinoids, glyphosate, GMO, NBT, ...). The granting of production equivalence to certain third countries can also facilitate the import of maize that does not meet the production model defended by the European Union. This situation can be considered as a form of social dumping with the consequence of a possible relocation of production areas to the detriment of European farmers. **The EU must guarantee competition with equivalent rules that should ensure compliance with European standards for agricultural production, and set up an efficient carbon adjustment mechanism at the borders.**



## Associazione Italiana Maiscoltori

In Italy, in recent months, a couple of actions have taken place promoted by AMI, the association of Italian maize producers, in favor of the cultivation of corn. The two initiatives, one of a political and economic nature which involved the Ministry of Agricultural Policies and the other purely economic which involved the entire production chain, were necessary for a relaunch of corn cultivation in Italy, after that in the last decade about 50% of the cultivated area had been lost. In summary, the two actions are the following.

### **Supply chain framework agreement**

This is an agreement with a strong economic value between all the components of the Italian maize production chain that had been working on for a couple of years for the enhancement of the corn produced in our country and used in the feeding of livestock raised in the production areas of the main Italian PDO and excellence products. Generally cheeses and meats. The intent is precisely the enhancement of basic products and all the steps of the production chains. Thanks to this agreement, for the first time, compared to what is recognized today by the market, about 13-15 € / t more are put into play in favor of the farmers, which could go down until to 6-8 € / t with the less option. It depend on the basic choices.

### **Three-year supply chain contracts**

This is an important milestone reached by the Italian maize producers and achieved thanks also to the commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture and the whole maize chain that pushed for the realization of this agreement which provides for the payment of a price integration of about 10 € / t deriving from the much-requested public contribution for the hectares cultivated under quality supply chain contracts with three-year validity.

Ami believes that these two initiatives can be a solid basis for relaunching corn cultivation in Italy. Likewise, it is also essential to act on other levers, such as the promotion of research, to encourage the use of new genetic improvement techniques (NBT) and the introduction of coupled support for corn cultivation in the next CAP. Ami is strongly committed in this direction and trusts in an effective commitment of the CEPM to act strongly on the European level.

## AGRICULTURE & PROGRESS PLATFORM: WEBINAR ON PRACTICAL CHALLENGES DECISION-MAKERS NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

On Wednesday 22 July 2020, the Agriculture & Progress Platform organised a webinar on plant protection, innovative crops and production to highlight the practical challenges that legislators need to take into account when making decisions related to agriculture.

As a founding member, CEPM participated in this event to demonstrate the support and efforts that maize farmers are putting in place to create more sustainability in the agri-food sector, providing safe and high quality food.

CEPM explained that fertilisers, plant protection products and more generally all production levers such as irrigation are very important to contribute to the high quality and quantity production necessary to ensure food sovereignty in the EU. Furthermore, maize can also act as a carbon pump, supporting the objectives set out in the Green Pact in an essential way. Maize producers have committed themselves to a path of progress to improve the efficiency of the use of plant protection products and fertilisers. Use volumes for maize have decreased but the small amount still used is essential to maintain yield and ensure safe production.

CEPM has argued that organic maize cultivation is not that difficult to implement in practice, but that it needs a real market to cover the higher production costs. In support of its argument, it presented the case of France, where organic maize production accounts for 28% of the cultivated area. This crop is expected to increase by 40% in 2020, but demand is not increasing, which creates a destabilisation of the organic market.

Finally, CEPM insisted on maintaining access to innovation, which is essential for European maize production as it is a tool that can respond to various problems. Future European policy should not lead to distortions between Member States as well as with third countries. It is therefore necessary to maintain as a major objective a high level of research in the EU to develop varieties. NBTs are an essential tool in integrated pest management.



### 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)*  
HUNGARY - *Vetőmag Szövetség Szakmaközi Szervezet és Terméktanács (VSZT)*  
ITALY - *Associazione Italiana Maiscoltori (AMI)*  
POLAND - *Polski Związek Producentów Kukurydzy (PZPK)*  
PORTUGAL - *ANPROMIS*  
ROUMANIA - *Association Roumaine des Producteurs de Maïs (APPR)*  
SLOVAKIA - *Zväz pestovateľ'ov a spracovateľ'ov kukurice (ZPSK)*

### Meetings of CEPM and its member organisations 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020

- ✓ **CEPM:**
  - **7 October 2020 (Videoconference):** Board Meeting
- ✓ **Germany:**
  - **23 November 2020:** DMK Board meeting, Hanover
- ✓ **Poland:**
  - **13 September 2020:** Maize Days, focused on promotion of culture and use of corn
- ✓ **Romania:**
  - **22 September 2020:** [Digital conference](#) of APPR on Plant Breeding Innovations Adapted to the Societal Needs

### Civil Dialogue Groups

*Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, several meetings of the Civil Dialogue Groups were cancelled*  
The provisional calendar of CDG meetings is regularly updated.

- 08-09-2020** (online meeting): Arable Crops COP
- 11-09-2020** (online meeting): Direct payments and greening
- 16-09-2020** (online meeting): Arable crops – Rice
- 01-10-2020** (online meeting): Environment and climate change
- 13-10-2020** (online meeting): CAP
- 15 & 16-10-2020** (online meeting): Farm to Fork Conference