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Press Release

COPA-COGECA WELCOMES EU APPROVAL OF NEW BEEKEEPING PROGRAMMES FOR 2010-2013

Copa-Cogeca welcomed today EU approval of new national beekeeping programmes for 2010-2013, claiming they give EU beekeepers much needed support, helping to secure the production and quality of EU honey.

The EU-27 programmes, which have an increased budget compared to the previous period, were approved by the EU management committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets, Section Animal Products. They are 50% co-funded by the EU and member state. The measures, which are optional for member states to apply, are designed to increase the resilience of EU beekeeping by enabling producers to improve conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products.

Speaking in Brussels, Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen said “ I am pleased that all member states are interested in using the programmes, even though they are optional to apply. This clearly shows the benefits of the schemes. The measures play an important role in securing the production and quality of honey in the EU, as well as maintaining sufficient numbers of honey bees in the EU”.

“I am particularly glad that the EU has decided to raise the EU budget for these programmes to 32 million euros annually for the EU of 27 Member States. This is urgently needed by the sector which is not just important from an economical point of view, but all also in terms of maintaining biodiversity, pollinating crops and wild flora, as well as maintaining employment in rural areas”, he added.

Mr Pesonen continued:”In view of the challenges facing EU beekeepers, especially the decline in beekeepers and bee colonies, Copa-Cogeca calls for support to be continued under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) post-2013. This support is vital to preserve a striving beekeeping sector in Europe and to enable consumers to benefit from high-quality EU bee products”.

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