



30<sup>th</sup> January 2008

IP(08)697:2

## - Agenda -

**Copa-Cogeca** and the renowned law firm **Graf von Westphalen** are jointly organizing a workshop on the latest developments in state aid in agriculture on the **29th February 2008**.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together the main actors in this field to examine in detail the recent changes and future trends in the policy and legal framework as well as their economic consequences.

State aid in agriculture plays a crucial role not only for farmers and their cooperatives but also for the role and the development of the agricultural sector in the European Community as a whole. This area has always been and still is a highly complex policy field as it must be in line with the European competition policy, changing common agricultural and rural development policies and the Community's international obligations. Therefore and in view of the recent developments in the agricultural sector, the latest changes in the respective policies and, last but not least, the implications of the ambitious and path breaking Lisbon Strategy the underlying rules and statutory requirements become more and more complicated for the economic actors in the agricultural sector to understand.

Against this background this workshop shall contribute to illustrate some of the latest developments and main challenges and offer the orientation which is crucial to understand the structure and underlying principles of this distinct policy area.

The workshop will take place at the COPA-COGECA Secretariat, Rue du Trèves 61, 1040 Brussels and is free of charge.

### **Morning Session: Latest developments and challenges of state aid in the agricultural sector**

#### **I. 09:30 h – 10:00 h:**

Opening speech: **Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca**

Introduction by: **Dr. Lothar Harings, Lawyer of Graf von Westphalen**

#### **II. 10:00 h – 10:30 h: Kai Heikkila – DG AGRI**

Presentation of DG Agriculture: The future of state aid in agriculture

#### **III. 10:30 h – 11:00 h: Anne Fort – DG COMPETITION**

Presentation of DG Competition: Recovery of unlawful and incompatible state aid and the recent improvement of procedural rules

**11:00 h – 11:15 h:** Coffee Break

#### **IV. 11:15 h – 11:45 h: Agnieszka Stobiecka - LEGAL SERVICE (State Aids and dumping)**

Presentation of the Legal Service: Current problems and challenges of state aid in agriculture

**V. 11:45 h – 13:00 h:**

Panel discussion: Challenges of state aid in the agricultural sector with special focus on SMEs and co-operatives

**13:00 h – 14:30 h:** Lunch break (sandwich lunch)

**Afternoon session: State aid in agriculture in practice****I. 14:30 h – 15:15 h: Dr. Karina Lott, Lawyer of Graf von Westphalen and Ludwig Willnegger, Copa-Cogeca**

Presentation of recent cases in different common market organisations

**II. 15:15 h- 15:45 h: Dr. Lothar Harings, Lawyer of Graf von Westphalen**

Consequences of unlawful aid: recovery and foreseen procedures

**15:45 h – 16:00 h:** Coffee break

**III. 16:00 h – 16:30 h: Paula Grossi, Copa-Cogeca**

State aid and crisis management

**IV. 16:30 – 17:00 h: José Cardona**

Specific aspects of state aid for agricultural cooperatives

**V. 17:00 h – 18:00 h:** Debate and conclusions