



IP(08)1863:1 - TR

COPA-COGECA Seminar

Comprehensive environmental protection – The European model of agriculture

Brussels, 13-14 March 2008

COPA-COGECA Secretariat, Rue de Trèves 61, B-1040 Brussels

Effective environmental protection is a key concern of European society. In the last few years, major adjustments to the Common Agricultural Policy have been made to preserve and improve the quality of Europe's environment. European farmers and cooperatives believe that sustainable production and nature conservation can go hand in hand. This is acknowledged by the European model of agriculture. But to ensure that farmers can continue to provide environmental services whilst producing healthy products, a balance between natural resource protection and competitive production has to be found.

The aim of this seminar was to look in detail at what is being done under the reformed CAP to meet the objectives of environmental protection and to emphasise that sustainable production and nature conservation are both indivisible parts of environmental protection.

The first session focused on the European model of agriculture and EU environmental legislation related to agricultural activities and its implementation at Member State level with examples from Denmark, Slovenia and France. During the second session best practice examples were given from the UK, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain for economically sustainable farming whilst respecting environmental issues. The central question discussed during the third session was which incentives - and how many - do farmers need to produce in an environmentally sustainable way.

The detailed programme and the presentations can be downloaded. (PDF)

(To see the presentations please click on the speakers names in the programme.)

Conclusions (PDF)

Photo Gallery (PDF)

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This event is being organised with the financial support of the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. The sole responsibility for the information contained herein lies with the author and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.