



CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'INGENIEURS AGRONOMES
EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRONOMIST ASSOCIATIONS

Summary Report Cedia Seminar
Leuven, Belgium 7/8 November 2013

Dr Margaret Malone, Institute for Ireland in Europe

Overview of Community Developments, political / institutional aspects.

The Lisbon Treaty which came into force on 1st December 2009. This Treaty reformed the founding Treaty of the European Union i.e. the Treaty of Rome, and the subsequent Maastricht Treaty which also reaffirmed the European Union. The Lisbon Treaty reaffirmed the relevance of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) objectives, and also set out objectives relating to Social, Environmental, and Food Safety

(Copy of full presentation available on Cedia Website www.cedia.eu)

Mr Jarlath Coleman, JJC CONSULTANTS <http://jicconsultants.com/>

Overview of the agricultural policy and regulatory process in the EU

Jarlath Coleman is a former Irish civil servant of the Irish Ministry of Agriculture, and served in EU in Brussels for a number of years. His career spans from Irelands entry into the EU in 1973 to the present. While he has officially retired, he continues to work in a private consultative capacity on CAP policy development and emerging issues mainly relating to Irish interests. He has a consultancy practise in Brussels.

(Copy of full presentation available on Cedia Website www.cedia.eu)

Mr David Harmon, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Geoghan-Quinn, Research, Innovation and Science.

Overview Institutional and International Policy; Research and Educational Support programmes

In 2010 the European 2020 Strategy was published which focuses on Societal challenges in the areas of Economic Growth, Jobs, Energy, Transport, Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Safety.

A €70 bn funding support programme called Horizon 2020 was established to support the targeted areas in the 2020 strategy. The next call for proposals under the fund closes on 11th December 2013. There is a €12 bn fund for this call. Enterprise Ireland is the contact point for Ireland.

Note: Maire Geoghan-Quinn is EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science.

(Please find additional information at <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>)

Mr John McClintock: European Commission
CAP and Community Budget in the context of European Economy and revised CAP arrangements, International Trade.

After the 2nd World War, farming was in total disarray throughout Europe. There were food shortage and food rationing was common. An initiative was started among six countries in Europe in the mid 1950's to address the farming problems. Out of this, under the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the CAP objectives were established. Very simply, these objectives focused on protecting and improving the interests of farmers and food consumers. The CAP became operational in 1962. The CAP policy achieved its objectives by manipulating market forces. At the start, the policy was, one of market demand control, which was achieved by setting the market price for agricultural produce at a higher than market level price, and buying the market surplus and storing it away. This helped farmers' incomes. To appease consumers, food subsidies were often applied to basic items such as butter, and meat products. Overtime these measures got too costly. A feature of supply control was introduced in 1984 for milk where a production quota was established for each farmer based on their 1984 supply. Under the McSharry reforms of 1992, the switch to market supply control was expanded in the CAP reform measures of that time. The thinking here was, if it is not produced, the associated costs for dealing with market surpluses will be avoided. Interestingly in 2015 the milk quota system is going to be taken away.

(Reference http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview/2012_en.pdf)

Eileen Kelly, Agricultural Officer N. Ireland Office Brussels

CAP- Its future role in the European Community: - to include Rural Development, Greening, Food safety, food security.

The current CAP reform process started back in 2010 and has taken 5 years to come to implementation. These measures will continue up to 2019, with the possibility of transitional arrangements being in place for 2019/20 as is in place for 2014.

The post 2020 process of CAP reform will start in 2015.

There are two streams of funding under the CAP, direct payments or the Single Farm Payment which is referred to as Pillar 1, and Pillar 2, is the Rural Development fund which is combined with other structural funds.

(Please find additional information at <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>)

Roberto Aparicio, European Commission Policy Officer
DG DEVCO C1 (Food security, Nutrition and Rural Development)

The Community Development Aid Programme – policies, programmes, operational mechanisms -assistance and supports for Development Towards a Sustainable Agriculture

There is an increasing need worldwide to increase food production. At the same time the scarce resources of arable land, plant nutrients, usable water, air quality, and the rural environment needs to be sustained and protected. This is an enormous challenge. There are 1 bn malnourished people in the world, with 1/3 in the continent of Africa. World population will reach 9bn by 2050. World food production will need to increase by 60% to feed this amount of people. In Africa, food production will need to increase by 200% in the same time. The EU contributes ~ €1 bn / year for food and nutrition worldwide. The priority for this aid is targeted at 20 of the neediest countries.

(Copy of full presentation available on Cedia Website www.cedia.eu)

Conor Mulvihill Irish representative on COPA* COGECA

Agriculture in Europe - The issues from a farming and Agri food Industry perspective

The Co-Op movement in Ireland was started by Sir Horace Plunkett in 1894. There are over 130 Co-Ops now in Ireland, with sales in excess of €13bn worldwide each year.

The Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) serves and promotes commercial co-operative businesses and enterprise, across multiple sections of the Irish economy.

The services and role that the ICOS Brussels office provides for co-operative members can be grouped as follows:

- Lobbying and driving policy that promotes the aims of the Irish co-operative movement
- Representing ICOS members on European and international farming and co-operative organisations such as COPA COGECA
- Working with Irish government officials to ensure that co-operative objectives are reflected in international government policy
- Developing links with a national representative and non-governmental groups to further our goals and objectives

Farming in Ireland is very important to the Irish economy, with 1 in 8 jobs and over 690 associated enterprises. Up on 94% of these enterprises are in the Small to Medium size category. The farming economy exports around €10bn worth of goods each year. The largest components of these are Beef, Lamb, and Milk.

(Copy of full presentation available on Cedia Website www.cedia.eu)

Mr Rob Simpson, Basis

New additions to the Professional Development Agenda

(Copy of full presentation available on Cedia Website www.cedia.eu)

Cedia members took the opportunity to Visit to the Historical Groot Begijnhof Van Leuven - Unesco World Heritage site while in Leuven