European Conference on Ensuring seed availability in the 21st century

Farmers’ views and expectations for S&PM

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Copa-Cogeca: The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union

**Copa – European farmers**
Bringing together 61 EU farmers’ organisations

**Cogeca – European agricultural cooperatives**
Bringing together 35 EU agricultural cooperative organisations
Copa-Cogeca: The united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union

Two organisations...

- representing 15 million people working full-time or part-time on EU farm holdings
- as well as around 40,000 cooperatives
- with strong links to other European countries
- among the biggest and most active interest representations in Brussels
Overview: general remarks and reactions

1- Our views on the current system

2- Future changes??

3- Expectations
1- S&PM Community legislation into force

Achievements...

• Ensuring that registered varieties on the market are SAFE for health and environment

• Farmers can use the best varieties

...Need for improvement

• Control of imports from Third countries

• Increase of uncertified seeds into the EU in recent years

• Problem for the future quality of the plant production
The objective of the legislation...is also to ensure the free movement of high quality S&PM
However European farmers have identified:

- Lack of EU legislation on adventitious presence of GMOs in seeds. Copa and Cogeca have been asking the Commission for thresholds since 1999!!

- Segregation of market

- Lack of harmonization as regards the implementation of phyto-sanitary requirements

- Lack of common rules for the marketing of seed treated with plant protection products
2- Copa – Cogeca’s suggestions for the future

- Community approach

- EU wide authorization for Plant Protection Products for use as seed treatments as well as common provisions for the marketing of these treated seeds;

- The choice to grow GMOs or not to grow them provided farmers have legal certainty to do so;

- It should also be acknowledged that a zero tolerance policy is not achievable;

- DUS acceptance criteria should be maintained;

- Community VCU provisions should be reinforced.
Farmers’ expectations for S&PM
Thank you for your attention

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