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What's on next week?

- **5 September:** [Workshop](#) on EU Strategy to promote digital and technological transformation of EU agriculture
- **6 September:** PEST Committee [meeting](#)

What's new with CEJA?

Successful General Assembly and working group in Slovenia!





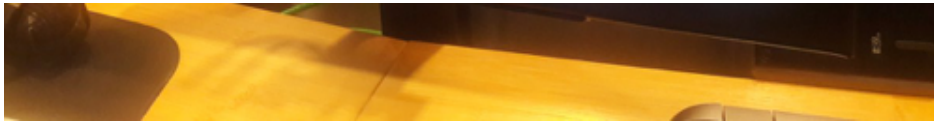
23-26 August: Delegates gathered in Maribor, Slovenia, last week for the CEJA General Assembly and working group. Subjects on the agenda included lobbying activities related to the **future CAP**, approval of the organisation's new **internal regulations** and **drought**.

ZSPM, our Slovenian member, were brilliant hosts, organising a **ministerial conference** with officials from across Europe, a **gala dinner** and **farm visits**.

The **next CEJA working group will take place on 1 and 2 October in Brussels**. We look forward to seeing you there!

CEJA at Committee of the Regions stakeholder consultation





30 August: CEJA was invited to participate in the Committee of the Regions' [NAT Stakeholder consultation](#) on the **CAP reform**. Discussions focussed on **markets, direct payments and rural development funds**.

CEJA Secretary General explained to those present that the nature of the CAP Strategic Plans might mean Member States are less ambitious in the generational renewal programmes. She added that "the CAP must provide a **strong definition of active farmer** in order for support to be better targeted."

Civil Dialogue Groups

New CDG and MO experts announced

The names of the **new experts attending Civil Dialogue Groups and Market Observatories** on behalf of CEJA were announced this week. The mandate is for two years. Here are the updated [code of conduct](#) and the [list](#) of selected candidates.

The **documents and presentations** concerning all the CDGs that CEJA experts attend are available on the European Commission's website to view and download. You can access all the CDG documents and presentations divided according to sector using this [link](#).

Calls & Opportunities



- EIP-AGRI launched a **call for experts for two new Focus Groups on non-chemical weed management in arable cropping systems, and pests and diseases of the olive tree**. The groups are expected to work for **around 12 months and meet face-to-face twice**. Further information is available [here](#). If you are interested, you have **until 10 September to submit your application** following [this link](#).
- The European Commission is inviting stakeholders to complete a [questionnaire](#) on **market transparency in the agri-food supply chain** addressed to undertakings and specific organisations. The **deadline is 30 September**.

What's happening in the EU?

Follow-up of the drought situation

30 August: A DG AGRI representative presented an update of the drought situation to MEPs gathered in COMAGRI, pointing out the consequences of the heatwaves that hit Europe during the summer.

- **Impact on fodder and crops**

The latest forecast in Europe shows that the **total cereals harvest for this year would be around 284.8 million tonnes, representing a fall of 5%** compared with last year. Described as the worst harvest since 2012, the biggest drop was in northern and central Europe. Soft wheat is particularly affected, with a 9% decrease. Additionally, the **impact on pasture and fodder is significant** leading to a lack of feedstuffs for the winter.

Prices are impacted as well, characterised by a subsequent increase. For feed wheat, the increase is between 14% in Poland and 43% in France. For milling wheat, between 18% in the United Kingdom and 26% in France. If the Commission believes **this increase would allow compensating the loss of income for some farmers**, there is still no visibility in terms of the consumers' prices. Overall, the quality of the cereals seems maintained, except in Romania and Bulgaria where the situation is mixed.

- **Response of the Commission**

The Commission, already through a [press release](#) earlier this summer, announced several measures including a continuous **dialogue with the Member States to promote the support options already available** under the rural development funds.

The EU's executive also allowed **greening derogations**, with a first decision on 14 August to allow Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) fallow land to be harvested or grazed. On 30 August, a discussion with the Member States led to allowing fodder production on FFA catch crop area and

to the adaptation of the period to allow sowing winter crops. The **Member States that already applied for the greening derogations** are Belgium, Estonia, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Finland and Sweden.

Another measure, the **advances of payments**, was subject to a discussion with the Member States on 30 August, with the idea to allow higher and earlier payments. The advance was **set to a maximum level of 70% of direct payments, and 85% of rural development support**. The payments must be **distributed in October instead of December**. The **Member States that already applied for the advances of payments** are Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Greece, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Croatia, Poland, Portugal (Azores), Romania, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland).

- **Other possibilities for Member States**

At Member State level, **state aid** can **cover up to 80% of the damage caused by the drought** and include specific measures among which is the possibility to purchase fodder. The compensation for damage can also be granted without the need to notify the Commission. Under **rural development funds**, national administrations can **fund up to 100% for the restoration of agricultural production potential** (e.g. re-seeding pastures). The Commission also pushes for the **use of the risk management tools**, such as mutual funds or the income stabilisation tool.

CEJA's press release on the drought is available [here](#).

The CEJA Secretariat will keep you updated on further developments in the next two weeks. Stay in touch if you wish to share any information on this topic with our other member organisations.

Commodity Price Dashboard for July 2018 published

30 August: The July edition of the [Agriculture - Commodity price dashboard](#) has been published.

It provides a **monthly summary of commodity price data** for the most representative agricultural products and consumer food prices, at EU and world level.

ENRD seminar highlights

10 August: Seminar highlights from the European Network for Rural Development's **seminar on smart villages** are [now available](#).

Discussions focused on a **range of tools** that can support smart villages, as well as **showcasing social and digital innovations** emerging across Europe.

Project news

Three, two, one, action! CEJA starts filming for SEMA II



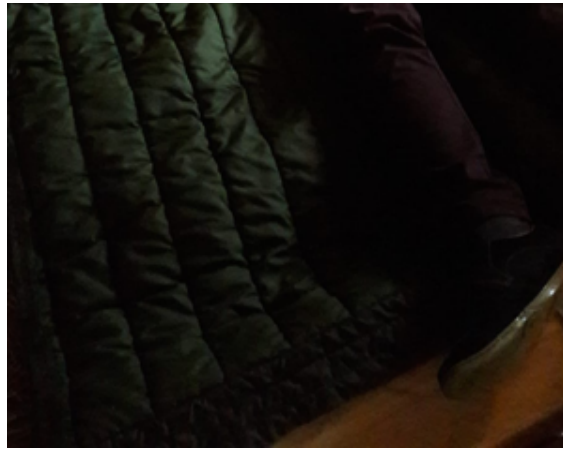
July & August: Over the summer, CEJA has been making videos for [SEMA II](#), an **Erasmus Plus project on multifunctional agriculture**.

Multifunctional agriculture one solution to making farms more sustainable. Providing information on **the necessary skills to diversify a farming activity** is one of the project's aims.

CEJA is involved in the case studies section of the project, locating young farmers with multifunctional activities and interviewing them about why they decided to diversify.

Photo of the week!





Jannes got a little too comfortable in a hayloft in Slovenia during the General Assembly ...



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