

# The CEJA Newsletter no.95

CEJA - European Council of Young Farmers

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## What's on next week?

- **8 July:** CDG Environment and Climate Change
- **9 July:** Workshop on the policy study on the Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs)
- **10 July:** Constitutive meeting of AGRI Committee in the European Parliament
- **12 July:** CDG Forestry and Cork
- **16-17 September:** CEJA WG (Brussels)

## What's new with CEJA?

**CEJA General Assembly 2019**



**27-29 June:** CEJA and the member organisations spent an intense three days in Sweden. **The General Assembly was held at Hamra Farm in Tumba, Sweden**, which is the innovation, testing and exhibition centre of DeLaval, CEJA's sponsor.

In this occasion, CEJA has renewed his positions on the board for the next two years mandate 2019-2021. **Jannes Maes** from Belgium has been reconfirmed as President, and the four Vice-Presidents are **Samuel Masse** from France, **Sean Finan** from Ireland, **Simon Wancke** from Sweden and **Doris Letina** from Slovenia.

The General Assembly also **approved unanimously the application of the Estonian Young Farmers Association**, de facto becoming an **observer member of CEJA**.

**The next CEJA working group will be in Brussels on 16-17 of September** with the **new board presenting its agenda for the coming two years**.

## What's happening in the EU?

**New EU-Mercosur trade agreement. The agreement in principle**



**28 June:** After 20 years of negotiations, the EU and Mercosur reached a final agreement on the Association Agreement trade deal. The agreement in principle - which is not a legal text and has to be subject to ratification - covers **several aspects** such as trade in goods, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, small and medium-sized enterprises and dispute settlement.

Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström qualified the conclusion of negotiations as a "historic moment", while Agriculture Commissioner **Phil Hogan described a balanced deal, conceding that "significant concessions" had been made** in order to achieve an

"ambitious outcome".

In the face of **opposition**, French President Emmanuel Macron, after severely criticizing the lack of guarantees during the negotiations, **defended** the final deal. He stressed that the deal contained sufficient safeguards for sensitive sectors such as **beef and sugar**.

However, critics of the agreement came from various agricultural stakeholders and environmental NGOs. The **Irish Farmers' Association** (IFA), in a statement of its President Joe Healy, described the deal as "bad for Ireland and for Irish farmers...a bad deal for the environment and **a bad deal for EU standards and consumers**". The European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS), on its side, underlined the deal contains **the biggest concessions ever made on sugar, at a time of severe difficulties for the sector**.

Last but not least, the Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU (AVEC) accused the Commission of offering the sector "up for slaughter", referring to the extra quota of 180 000 tonne of poultrymeat.

Further information on the content of the final agreement can be found [here](#).

### **The first European Parliament Plenary in Strasbourg**



**2-4 July:** The **9th European Parliamentary term has started**. In Strasbourg, the newly elected MEPs have chosen their President, **the Italian S&D MEP [David Sassoli](#)**, and the **[14 vice-presidents](#)** for the next two and a half years.

The Members of Parliament approved the size of all Parliament's committees and subcommittees, and their composition was further specified by political groups on Wednesday evening.

**The Agriculture Committee (COMAGRI)** in the first half of the term **will consist of [48 MEPs](#)**. The EPP has the largest number of members(12), followed by the S&D group with 10 MEPs, Renew Europe with 7 MEPs, The Greens and Identity and Democracy (ID) with 5 MEPs, ECR with 4 MEPs, GUE/NGL with 3 MEPs and finally the Non Attached with 2 MEPs.

On **10 July, there will be the constitutive meeting** of the AGRI Committee where the Chair and the Vice-Chairs will be elected, while **the next meeting is scheduled for 23 July**.

### **Finnish Presidency of the EU Council: top priorities**

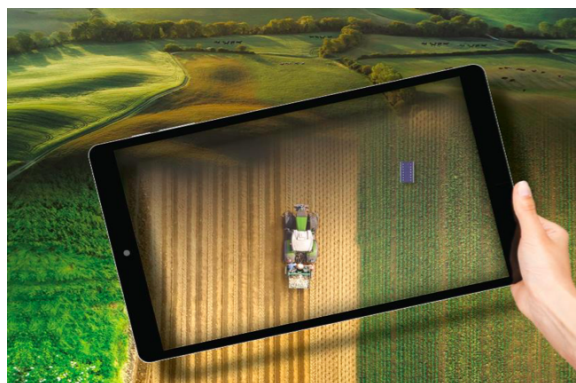
**1 July:** Finland took over the reins of the rotating Presidency from Romania and will hold the Presidency until December 2019. The presidency will deal with many crucial issues in the future months: **Brexit**, the finalisation of negotiations for the **Multiannual Financial Framework** (MFF), which plans the EU budget for the next seven years and for the Common Agricultural Policy reform.

**Top priorities** in Finland's Presidency Programme "[\*Sustainable Europe - Sustainable Future\*](#)" are strengthening the **common value** and the **rule of law**, making the **EU more competitive and socially inclusive**, strengthening the EU's position as a global leader in **climate action** and protecting the **security of citizens** comprehensively.

Concerning environment and climate action, the topic of **sustainable use of natural resources** will be high on the agenda, together with the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. With regards to the MFF, there is **no** explicit mention of **willingness to maintain the CAP funding as a whole**. A solid role will be given to Horizon Europe Framework. Regarding trade, the Finnish Presidency will follow-up on the propositions to **modernize the World Trade Organization**, including its dispute settlement body. Attention will be given to the topic of **youth workers**, including a specific chapter on education and training. Finland dedicated its first official event to the issue of youth work, in the context of the EU Youth Conference, held in Helsinki on the 1-2-3 July, to which CEJA participated.

[Here](#) is the Policy brief prepared by CEJA Office on the Finnish Presidency.

## The Commission forecasts higher grain and livestock outputs until 2020



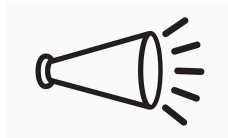
**9 July:** The Commission published the report "[Short-Term Outlook for EU Agricultural Markets in 2019 & 2020](#)".

The report predicts **rises** in grain, dairy, beef, sheep, and pig production until 2020. EU **grain production** is expected to rise from around 293 million tonnes to 311 million tonnes,

while **wheat production** is expected to increase by 10%. EU **milk production** is forecasted to increase by 1% on “sustained **demand for European dairy products**”.

Concerning meat, **beef exports** are expected to increase by 15% thanks to opportunities in new emerging markets in the Philippines, Bosnia, Israel and China. **Pigmeat exports** are expected to rise by 12% in 2019 due to the growing demand from China. According to DG AGRI officials, **poultry production** will increase by 2.5% on “good demand and high prices”. In contrast, oilseed crops are seen to fall, mostly because of a 10% drop in rapeseed area.

## Calls & Opportunities



- The European Commission is calling for submissions for its survey on precision farming: "[Does technology make agriculture in your region smarter?](#)" More information can be found [here](#). The **deadline is 15 July**.
- **Two new consultations** have been published related to EU state aid: an [evaluation](#) of state aid instruments and a [review](#) of agricultural state aid guidelines. The **deadline for feedback is 19 July**.

## Photo of the week!



**Here the group picture at Hamra Farm in Sweden at the conclusion of our 2019 General Assembly.**

**On CEJA Facebook page, you can find more pictures of the event.**

## Civil Dialogue Groups

### **CDG documents available**

The **documents and presentations** concerning all the Civil Dialogue Groups that CEJA experts attend are available on the European Commission's [website](#) to view and download.

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