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Press Release

Copa-Cogeca meets with Romanian Presidency to discuss farmers concerns and goals

Ahead of the Agri-Fish Council meeting today, under the chairmanship of the Romanian Presidency, Copa and Cogeca met Petre Daea, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an important and constructive exchange of views on the key priorities for EU's farming community. The talks focused on the CAP and its related budget, Mercosur trade deal negotiations and interplay between agri-technology, new breeding techniques and climate change aspects.



Reacting to the outcomes of the meeting, Joe Healy, Copa Vice-President, said, *“It was a good exchange of views this morning with the Minister, with whom we share common concerns and goals. We underlined that farmers cannot accept or survive any cuts to the CAP budget and that it is crucial to adequately support them to continue to produce sufficient amounts of safe and top quality food at affordable prices for consumers, while also maintaining the environment and rural areas. The 5% proposed cut must at minimum be reversed and the budget be fully funded. This is particularly important given the extra asks and requirements put towards farmers around meeting the climate change goals and also due to the fact that the budget has not been indexed to account for inflation.”*

Commenting on another important point discussed - the Mercosur trade deal, Mr Healy added, *“We also wanted to highlight the opposition of European farmers to any deal being agreed with Mercosur. Our farmers are already faced with huge uncertainty over Brexit and there is only contempt being shown by Brazil around their failure to meet EU standards on imports. The EU Commission must not sacrifice EU agriculture to secure a deal with Mercosur. We are already over 100% self-sufficient on beef and No-Deal Brexit would increase that number up to 116%. Carbon efficient farming is essential in the context of climate change and therefore it makes no sense to make a deal that allows beef to be imported into the EU from countries which are significantly less carbon efficient in their production. With addition of transport emissions, we are looking at the deal that goes against EU's ambitious climate goals.”*

-ENDS-

Translations (in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Polish) will soon be available at

www.copa-cogeca.eu

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