

10/07/19

## Press Release

### **Mr. Lins, the European farming community is counting on you to conclude the CAP talks and oppose the negative effects of the EU-Mercosur trade deal!**

**After intense negotiations, the European Parliament AGRI Committee decided to elect Norbert Lins as Chair of the Committee. Copa and Cogeca welcome the appointment of an MEP who has proven experience on both agricultural matters and the functioning of the European institutions.**

Commenting on the outcome of the constitutive meeting held today in Brussels, Pekka Pesonen, Copa and Cogeca Secretary General declared *"We are delighted to see such a pro-European and experienced public figure as Mr. Lins appointed as the Chair of the AGRI committee. As a reelected member of this committee who actively contributed to the work on the future CAP before the election, we expect that Mr. Lins will prove his consistency and make sure that the current process won't be subject to full renegotiation. The same principles should apply when it comes to Mercosur. We hope that M. Lins and the whole AGRI committee will take a strong stance by deciding not to endorse the provisional implementation of the agreement."*

For Copa and Cogeca, there is no doubt that the new pro-EU majority in the AGRI Committee will want to create a landmark policy and bring new thinking into the ongoing debate around the CAP. However a landmark can also quickly turn into a black mark. Farmers need a long-term perspective and a stable framework, especially in the current tense international trade climate. A complete overhaul of the current CAP negotiations would create major uncertainties and postpone the application of essential measures necessary for facilitating the transition of our agriculture.

This is why it is essential that MEPs take advantage of the work conducted by their predecessors and base their proposals on the conclusion of the AGRI Committee vote in April. The newly elected Committee will also have to carefully consider the timeline and follow the Brexit developments taking into account its impact on the EU budget.

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