

**Draft Minutes CAP Post 2020 Consultative Committee Meeting
Friday 06 December 2019 in Agriculture House, Kildare Street**

In attendance:

DAFM - Paul Savage, Assistant Secretary General (Chair), Sharon Murphy, EU Division, Valerie Woods, Meat and Milk Policy, John Eivers, Horticulture and Plant Health Division, Corina Roe, CAP Rural Development Division, Ultan Waldron, CAP Rural Development Division, Ted Massey, EU Division, Maria Rigney EU Division (minute taker).

See **Annex 1** for list of other organisations and names of their representatives in attendance.

1. Minutes from the meeting on 07 November and matters arising

The Chair welcomed the stakeholders and gave a brief outline of the meeting agenda which covered CAP objectives 2, 3 and 9. The Chair noted the issuing of updated SWOT is delayed; he hopes to have the SWOT analysis available in January. No other matters arising from the last minutes. The Chair requested that any comments/amendments to the minutes be emailed to the designated email address CAPConsultativeCommittee@agriculture.gov.ie

2. Update on developments at EU level

Sharon Murphy, EU Division gave an update on CAP related discussions at EU level. At the end of their term of office, the Finnish Presidency will issue a progress report on CAP reform.

Corina Roe, CAP Rural Development Division outlined the Commission's proposals on transitional measures. Working Group discussions will continue under the Croatian presidency.

In relation to the transitional regulations, a committee member asked if DAFM will be consulting with Irish stakeholders. The Chair outlined that the transitional regulations are not expected to be finalised until mid-next year, however he confirmed DAFM would consult through the CAP Consultative Committee and other fora to ensure coherence between transitional measures and development of the CAP Strategic Plan.

3. Presentations and Committee Member's views on proposed CAP objectives 2, 3, and 9.

John Eivers, Horticulture and Plant Health Division gave a presentation on Producer Organisations in the Fruit and Vegetable sector. This contained details on the Commission's proposals for "other" sectoral interventions and the benefits of producer organisation membership.

Valerie Woods, Meat and Milk Policy Division gave a presentation on Beef producer organisations which are at an infancy stage.

Grace Binchy from Bord Bia gave a presentation on the Consumer – understanding market dynamics and consumer motivation.

Before opening the floor for comments, the Chair thanked those who gave presentations and emphasised the CAP regulations need to have maximum flexibility to enhance our ambition.

Committee members responded with a range of comments relating to the three presentations. These included comments on the growth in organic retail sales across Europe, supermarket specifications, food labelling, food waste, beef consumption, climate change, the Mercosur agreement, consumer trends, Origin Green, promotion of whole foods and opportunities for plant based food development.

Committee members also discussed the definition of a producer organisation, producer organisations experiences across Europe as well as concerns regarding the Commission's proposal to fund certain producer organisations using Pillar 1 (Pillar 2 was suggested as an alternative). Sharon Murphy confirmed the Commission proposals include an option to set aside up to 3% of Pillar 1 for producer organisations in the "other" sectors.

It was suggested that producer organisations could facilitate local environmental actions. The potential for producer organisations to change the nature of farmers being price takers and to enable better communication with consumers was raised. A committee member outlined his desire to explore the potential for producer organisations to develop retailer contracts that would closely reflect actual production costs.

It was pointed out that the CAP cannot sort all problems and there are other forums available to advance matters. The Chair agreed the CAP cannot cover everything and discussed the need to work with the agri food strategy and Ag Climatise as well as the need to collaborate with other government departments and agencies to have a coherent overall approach to issues.

A committee member felt further public engagement from Irish society is needed on the draft SWOT analysis. The Chair confirmed the CAP public consultation process was an open one, with an opportunity for all interested parties to contribute and that wider societal demands would be reflected to the maximum possible extent.

Responding to comments from committee members, the Chair referred to European Commission research that demonstrates Ireland is among the most sustainable producers of beef and dairy in Europe. Referring to the National Climate Action Plan, the Chair confirmed measures must be put in place under the CAP. This will be challenging but we are committed. In relation to comments on draining soils, the Chair confirmed he is aware of a pilot project on rewetting peatlands.

4. Update on Consultation and the SWOT analysis process to date

Ultan Waldron, CAP Rural Development Division gave an overview of the consultation on the draft SWOT for the CAP Strategic Plan. Themes in submissions included income, capping, convergence, redistribution, the farmer's position in the value chain. Generational renewal, peatlands, biodiversity, the bio economy, AKIS and rural employment also featured. Ultan outlined how a range of views were expressed on some of these themes. He acknowledged the valued contributions, some of which are outside the scope of the SWOT.

5. Next Steps for the Consultative Committee

The Chair discussed intervention logic and the next steps which will include bilateral engagement with government departments and agencies to ensure overall policy coherence. CAP Rural Development Division are currently revising the SWOT analysis; it is hoped to have the revised quadrants ready for circulation with the background papers in January 2020. When the SWOT is finalised, the next step will be to develop the Needs Assessment.

A committee member expressed disappointment with the SWOT analysis presentation and felt the documents in the SWOT were fragmented and not comprehensive. They suggested there was a need to go back to public consultation. The Chair explained the logic in keeping the consultation open and simple, this is the base layer of the process and DAFM did not wish to prejudice the discussion.

The Chair confirmed he is open to consulting as widely as possible and that further public consultation is being considered for when there is greater clarity in the draft regulations. The Chair confirmed DAFM will not be going back to re-open the consultation on the draft SWOT.

The Chair was asked for an explanation of the intervention logic and the next steps. The Chair outlined the following steps in the process: SWOT analysis (sets foundation), the Needs Assessment is then developed setting out what needs to be addressed by the CAP. This guides development of an Intervention Logic (the sort of interventions required to address a need or needs). The CAP Strategic Plan must show the logic for what is proposed. It must also be borne in mind that the final agreed regulations will dictate the scope of what each Member State can do.

6. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 05 February 2020.

7. AOB.

No points raised under any other business.

End

Annex 1.

Committee member/representative	Organisation
Binchy, Grace	Bord Bia
Bleasdale, Andy	NPWS
Carter, Clive	Irish Grain Growers Assoc
Claffey, James	NRN
Dillon, Derrie	Macra
Duggan, Oonagh	Birdwatch Ireland
Farrell, Eamonn	ICOS
Fitzsimons, Paula	ACORNS
Grant, Donal	Dept Housing, Planning & Local Govt
Gunning, Gerry	IFA
Hanrahan, Kevin	Teagasc
Harney, Dymnpa	Dept Rural and Community Development
Hughes-Elders, Georgina	Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform
Lynam, Dan	ICSA
Mulvihill, Conor	Dairy Industry Ireland
O'Donnell, Colm	Irish Natura & Hill Farmers Association
O'Farrell, Kevin	An Taisce
Randles, Anne	Ornua
Smyth, Paul	ICMSA
Stanley Smith, Charles	Environmental Pillar
Wallace, Michael	UCD
Westbrook, Gillian	IOFGA