

# **FINAL DECLARATION OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES COOPERATIVES OF Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain**

**INTERPOMA, Bolzano, November 15th 2012**

**In view of the Reform of the Fruit and Vegetables sector support scheme**

## **Definition and Recognition of POs in the F&V sector**

- supply concentration and valorization -> joint marketing activities;
- close link to support scheme to OPs (value of the marketed production);
- integration within the Council Regulation;

## **Increase the organization of the supply**

- POs are the main tools for balancing the power within the food chain: added value division and bargaining power;
- encouraging 'sponsoring' and transnational actions in countries where organization is weak (i.e. EU-12);
- reduction of the commercial operators: support to merging , Association of Producers Organizations (APOs), subsidiaries;

## **Improvement of the Crisis Prevention and Management**

- POs role is central for crisis prevention;
- more actions : credit and export insurance, internationalization
- complementarity between Crisis Prevention and Management/CMO and new tools for deep crisis management /risks: CMO – second pillar for all producers;

## **Budget and EU support**

- F&V's budget most efficient :, co-financed;
- Funding is 'European' and 'Open';
- no national "enveloppe";
- support is proportional to value of marketed production (VMP);
- EU funding level depends on dimensional increase and on supply concentration;

## **Internationalization and Competitiveness**

- production competitiveness;
- reinforcement of support measures to OPs / internationalization / promotion;
- market access and consolidation of new opened markets: abolish TBC, reciprocity; innovation, brand policy and transformation;

## **Greening and Food Safety in the new CAP**

- POs common management of the environmental measures on behalf of their members;
- sustainable management of natural resources;
- POs role in assuring quality, traceability and food safety;

## **Competition rules derogation**

- rules need to be adapted to the agricultural situation;
- legal certainty in market policy for PO and APO members;
- abrogation of the 'dominant position' condition;
- size increase of POs and APOs;

## **Complementarity between CMO and Rural Development**

- the two tools in the first and second pillar should be compatible and complementary;
- legal certainty for the implementation of POs 'business strategy' at regional/interregional level.

## CONCLUSION

*Considering the reality of the production, its problems and today's and future challenges.  
Considering POs' contribution to employment, their role towards tax payers and consumers as  
constant and durable suppliers of safe products.*

*Considering POs' role in guaranteeing the environment in the rural areas where they work.  
Considering POs are real joint enterprises run by producers that are based on the democratic  
management principle and that work to assure their members a fair and stable income while  
developing the sector in a sustainable way.*

*Considering the ratio of allocated funds to the total budget of the CAP (<2%), and the value of F&V  
production compared to the overall value of the agricultural sector (22% of APV - agricultural  
production value).*

*Considering that POs contribute in an effective way to face economic challenges and that they  
have a strategic position within the food chain:*

## VBT, DPA , Felcoop, Cooperativas Agroalimentarias, Alleanza Cooperative Italiane

### Refuse to :

- ✓ Leave behind the *savoir faire* and the goals achieved in the context of European common policy, in favor of a totally new approach;
- ✓ To disperse the EU budget.

### Ask the EU Commission:

To focus on the main target: concentration of the marketing activities to better the producers' position on the market.

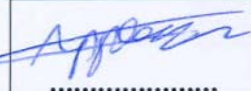
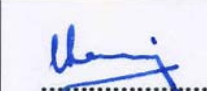

### Support :

**« Option 1 – 2.a » of the document linked to public consultation launched by the EU Commission**

### Consider that :

**Reinforcing and improving the current support scheme, granting funds allocated from the first pillar in favor of POs for their Ops, in proportion to the value of their marketed production and keeping in mind complementarity with new CAP tools, is the only option the Commission should be taking into account for its future legislative proposals.**



VBT	DPA	FELCOOP	COOPERATIVAS AGROALIMENTARIAS	ALLEANZA COOPERATIVE ITALIANE
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