

ACTIVITY REPORT – MAY 2013

This is an intermediary report. The yearly report is usually presented during the plenary meeting which takes place in October.

NEW REGIONS

After participating in AREPO's activities during a year as an observer, Bavaria officially joined the association in 2013.

Contacts have been established with UK regions.

STATE OF THE ART OF THE TRILOGUES ON THE CAP AND THE BUDGET

CAP trilogues: 12 meetings have been held so far among the Commission, the Parliament and the Council. Negotiations haven't clearly started on the issues that concern quality in the CAP, as no agreement was reached on more controversial topics. Most of AREPO amendments were included in ComAgri's compromise amendments and in the position of the European Parliament. They don't seem to have been included in the proposal by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. It is not clear whether their absence is due to opposition by the Council or to the fact that they haven't been discussed yet.

Budget trilogues: trilogues are ongoing, and bound to the budget for 2013. The EP should vote the budget for 2014-2020 at the beginning of July. If an agreement was not found for the 2014-2020 budget, the budget for 2013 would be applied to every year of the financial period.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

TK-NET: our proposal was declined by the Commission for formal reasons. The person who has coordinated the participation in this project is assessing the possibilities to file a complaint.

TastEurope : awaiting reply from Commission

FutureMed : ongoing

QUALITY PACKAGE: DELEGATED ACTS: STATE OF THE ART ON OPTIONAL QUALITY TERMS (MOUNTAIN, ISLANDS AND MY FARM)

The creation of optional quality terms is one of the main innovations of the quality package. They will be defined through the delegated acts. 3 terms are currently being discussed.

Mountain products: the definition of this term is the more advanced. An expert group composed by representatives of the Member States is working with the Commission. Bavaria takes part in this work. AREPO has also had exchanges with Euromontana on this subject. The main issue concerns the definition of mountain products for each family of products, the derogations for production outside of the mountain area and the supply of raw materials from outside the mountain area.

Island products: an impact assessment is being carried out. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Seville will organize a seminar on the 13th and 14th June. AREPO was invited to participate in the framework of the round table on the link with quality. Through AREPO, Corse was also invited to participate. Crete was invited to present a concrete case too. The usefulness of this kind of term has not been clearly defined yet.

Product of my farm: the impact assessment of this term is at a more advanced stage. The definition of the concept required a lot of time (proximity, direct sales, short circuits, etc.). AREPO has been participating to the experts group created within the advisory group on quality for a year. The Commission should start the drafting of the proposal soon.

Next advisory group on quality: 25th June.

NON-AGRI GI + INITIATIVE OF THE REGION OF ANDALUCIA

Two needs are at the basis of this proposal: on the one hand the need of origin handicrafts producers, who face the same usurpation issues as origin agricultural products producers; on the other the demand by third countries who, in the framework of multi or bi-lateral negotiations, ask the EU to recognize their non-agri GIs. Examples: knives, earthenware, building stone, textiles, etc.

The European Commission is carrying out a recognition project (currently at the stage of impact assessment) and national legislative projects are being put in place (France) for the protection of consumers. An important study (inventory) has been carried out in Aquitaine. Andalucía proposes a collective action. AREPO and its regions must decide how to position themselves with regards to this matter.

RELATIONS WITH AREFLH AND AREV

The secretary general of AREPO participate in the GA of AREFLH in Nantes and to the one of AREV in Struttgart. During AREFLH'GA, the need for an administrative cooperation (sharing of resources) between AREPO and AREFLH was presented by the outgoing president of AREFLH (Languedoc-Roussillon) and taken by the new President (Cataluña). Both networks are concerned by the reception of membership fees and by maintaining a-their number of members. AREPO is the only of the 3 networks that kept its number of members stable from 2011 and 2012: 24 membership fees were received. New arrivals compensate for the departures. Nevertheless, several members of AREPO, who are members of AREFLH at the same time, express the need to lower the membership fees through the sharing of resources with AREFLH. Such position was approved by the GA in Bologna. Presidents Rabboni (AREPO) and Peligri (AREFLH) will meet in Bologna on the 30th May. A proposal will be presented by AREPO.

RUSSIA – EU BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GIS

AREPO invited the delegation of the Russian Federation and the delegation of the European Commission to participate in the European and world conference on origin and prepared a specific work programme for them in order to create the best possible conditions to the opening of the negotiations.