



Meeting of Energy and  
Environment Committees, 21 January  
2008

Meeting of the COSAC  
Chairpersons and the Troika, 18  
February 2008

Meeting of Defence Committees, 3  
March 2008

Meeting of Foreign Affairs  
Committees, 17-18 March 2008

Meeting of Cultural Affairs  
Committees, 14 April 2008

Meeting of the XXXIX COSAC, 6-8  
May 2008

**Meeting of Agricultural Affairs  
Committees, 2-3 June 2008**

Invitation  
Programme

Registration forms  
General Information

List of participants

Speech Fischer Boel

CWB - Committee on  
Agriculture, Forestry and Food

■ Substantive issues for  
discussion Summa

Substantive issues for

discussion Verbič

Substantive issues for

discussion Djordjevič

Substantive issues for

discussion Erjavec

Photogallery

Other Events in Slovenia

Other events abroad

Information for the media

## Public information

02.06.2008

PRESS RELEASE - The future of  
the Common Agricultural Policy of  
the European Union, food  
security...

29.05.2008

MEDIA INFORMATION - Meeting of  
Agricultural Committee  
Chairpersons at the National  
Assembly of th...

08.05.2008

MEDIA INFORMATION - XXXIX  
COSAC Meeting, Brdo pri Kranju,  
7- 8 May 2008

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## Substantive issues for discussion Summa

### Possibilities and traps of green energy production

- In January this year the European Commission presented a proposal for a new Directive on Renewable Energy. The proposal is now in co-decision process and the European Parliament and EU Member States are working to turn it into law by early 2009.

- The mandatory targets of 20 % of renewable energy and a 10 % share of biofuels in transport by 2020 included in this proposal are bound to increase the demand for agricultural and other biomass during the coming years. Concerns have been expressed about the impacts on agricultural prices, on land use and on the environment.

- The Commission's impact assessment concluded that the availability of biomass would not be a feasibility constraint for achieving the targets for renewable energy. There is significant potential for increasing the provision of biomass both in the agricultural and forestry sectors in the EU. Also waste as well as agricultural and forestry residues can contribute in a sustainable way to the production of bioenergy.

- There will be some impact on commodity prices, but the time period until 2020 is long enough for the agricultural markets to adapt without major tensions between food, feed and energy demand. It is to be noted that biofuels are not the reason for the commodity price increases seen in the past year; their main causes are growing food and feed demand and poor harvests.

- It is important to ensure that the increased production of renewable energy will be sustainable. The Commission's proposal includes sustainability criteria which set clear lines on what kind of biofuels are acceptable: to be counted against the EU target, biofuels must achieve at least a 35 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to petrol and diesel, they must not be produced on land converted from forest, wetlands or high biodiversity grassland and they must not use materials from pristine forests or nature reserves.

- Renewable energy is promoted because it is one of the key elements in the battle against climate change. It will also improve our security of energy supply by diversifying sources for energy production. In addition to these main objectives, green energy provides opportunities for rural economies in the development of new technologies, services and employment based on local resources.

### Questions for debate

- Are the EU targets for renewable energy and biofuels a risk for food security?

- Will biofuels cause an increase in food prices?

- How can EU agriculture contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions without losing its competitiveness?

- How does the CAP support renewable energy and climate change mitigation?

## Event calendar

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