

In the social domain

“Through social dialogue – new developments, new challenges, new training opportunities”

1. New advancements will be possible

- 1.1. Thanks to the financial and operational support from the Commission, it has been possible to achieve a research on the economic and social relevance of the agricultural and rural contractors in 10 EU countries of her European Confederation
- 1.2. This research has shown concrete data in constant evolution since 5 years on the type of interventions of the ARFC in the agricultural and rural fields, and mainly in the clients at the level of the agricultural exploitations as well as within the environment sector.
- 1.3. As a result of CAP reform, we have witnessed a decline in full time farmers to part-time farmers in some countries. These changes have put more importance on the role of ARFC in agricultural, rural and environmental sectors.
- 1.4 The agricultural sector now relies on ARFC as vital service providers without which they could not survive. ARFC should be re-designated as an agro-industry developing and creating skilled and qualified labour.

2 new Challenges

- 2.1 The European Commission proposed in 1995 to the socio-economic actors from the European Union, the Employment Trust Pact, aiming at their full mobilisation in a common strategies, in order to give or provide with a better value the European dissemination effect and to fight unemployment in a medium and long term.
- 2.2 The Social partners represented within the Agricultural Sectorial Committee have already in 1997, through the conclusion of a European Framework agreement, shows the challenge to improved salaried employment within the Agriculture.
- 2.3 The same social partners have put their efforts together to look for synergies that create employment together with other productive sectors.

3 new training systems have to be created and proposed

- 3.2 The realized research has shown us the single demands of the businesses managers in terms of training. Knowledge's of marketing and commercial management have to improve and to be adapted. They also wish to see the possibilities of diversification of their services and a better use of their human resources management.
- 3.3 The businesses manager and their salaried workers, that deal with more and more sophisticated machineries, also need adapted training systems to avoid the risks of accidents they are in the sector.
- 3.4 Finally, thousands of wage earners or self employed small farmers who have lost their jobs in agricultural farms could perhaps, after further professional or adequate training, find new jobs and practical improvement in the ARFC sector

4. New requirements appears

- 4.1 The agriculture sector is responsible for the food security, keeping the natural environment. This required professional skills as well related training.
- 4.2 The several activities, more and more specialised with a higher productivity in agriculture ask for an intervention of the technical services providers such as ARFC.
- 4.3 The “management” of the rural and agricultural employment by the European Committees or federation of professional or social organisations has evolved during the last 20 years and has consequently been adapted (cfr. Framework agreement for the improvement of the salaried workers within the agricultural field concluded between the (COPA) Committee of the Professional Agricultural Organisations and the European Federation of Agricultural worker's union, EFA on 24.7.1997.
- 4.4 In order to be recognized as a social partner at a European level the ARFC must:
 - Been organised at the European level
 - Been structured in an organisation constituted by members who in their own countries are recognized and participate to the Social Dialogue.
 - Have European structures that allows consultation in their own countries.

Following the debates within the Commission representatives and the acknowledged Social Partners

The CEETTAR General Assembly gather on 27th and 28th April in Pau considers that:

- The European agricultural and rural social partners must be enlarged to CEETTAR,
- In order to do so, we must start a discussion process with the social partners of the agricultural sector, to specify the concrete participation in the framework of a dialogue which will be reserved to the CETTAAR representatives and to fix the modalities, the means and the aims as well as the concrete consequences of a participation on the short and medium term.

The General Assembly of CEETTAR calls upon the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee (ESC), the relevant units within the European Commission and the employers and salaried workers organisation within the European agriculture sector, to take immediate action to facilitate full association of the ARFC in the actual debates and future challenges of the European Agriculture and to its contribution to the social policy and to the economic prosperity of the European Union; to deal effectively with the actual problems, the international deadlines and the enlargement toward Eastern and Central Europe;