

## European Parliament hearing on the impact of EU measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

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**copa**\***cogeca**  
european farmers      european agri-cooperatives

# Covid-19 and the fruit & veg sector: A particular impact

- \* Different **consumption patterns** compared to other sectors
- \* **Unlike** any other crisis: unknowns, global size, speed





# Covid-19 and the fruit & veg sector: A particular impact

\* **Differentiation** within the fruit and vegetable category:

- \* Depending on different **factors**, such as product, perishability
- \* Temporary **high prices** for some products but...
- \* ....**higher and extra costs** accumulation along the chain

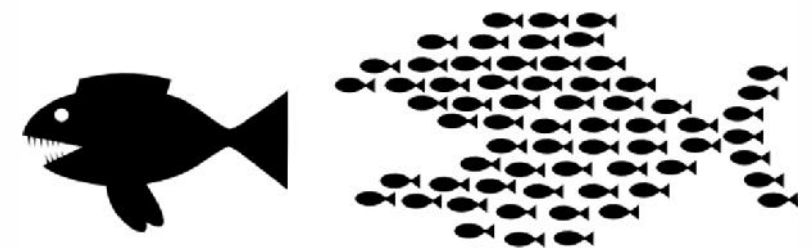
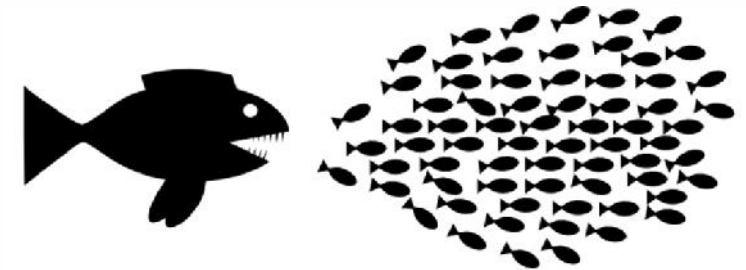


# Producer organisations made the difference

- \* Collective versus individual action:  
Efforts much more effective in  
**cooperatives and POs**

- \* Good performance of the fruit  
and vegetable market due to:

- \* The sector's **reactive capacity**
- \* Extraordinary **effort** made in  
exceptional times
- \* Its faultless **responsibility and  
professionalism**



# Response of the European Commission (+)

## \*Positives:

- \* Fast and adequate response with guidelines to keep **Single Market open**
- \* Efficient reaction to ensure **free movement of seasonal workers**.
- \* Publication of **technical flexibilities to facilitate PO management** in fruit & veg sector



# Response of the European Commission (-)

## \*Negative:

- \* Despite the unprecedented severity of the crisis, **no specific fund** to support POs and supply chain operator established



# Lessons learned

## \*The EU consumer

- \* knows European fruit and veg are **safe and healthy**
- \* now realises the importance of the **primary sector**

*Therefore, the opportunity arises to redefine the concepts of 'local' and 'short circuit' and align them with the meaning they have taken on during the pandemic*



# Lessons learned

- \* The EU fruit & veg sector
  - \* is '**sustainably intensive**'
  - \* is the **safest provider** of fruit & veg for the European population
  - \* is reactive and resilient due to its capacity to **cooperate**

*Therefore, the sector's efforts should be recognized and preserved, before imposing new conditions on our productive system.  
It is time to bet on policies that stimulate and prioritize efforts to concentrate supply, as cooperatives*

