

# NEA PASEGES

Mr Pekka Pesonen  
Secretary General  
Copa and Cogeca  
Rue de Treves, 61  
BE-1040  
Brussels, Belgium

Athens, 09.03.2017  
ReF.No. 70

**Subject: In response to your letter CC(17)1805, of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017-03-08**

Dear Mr Pesonen,

Thank you for your consideration on the issue of the membership of Greek agricultural organisations to Copa and Cogeca.

PASEGES would like to reassure you of its willingness to fully engage in all agricultural policy activities at EU level and to assume all the financial responsibilities accruing from this engagement and of the membership to Copa and Cogeca.

However, we **cannot accept the membership of GAIA EPIXEIREIN**, as it does not comply with the fundamental requirement of constituting an agricultural organisation.

In particular, as we have specifically noted in our letter to you on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017: *“... by no circumstances, the compliance of any potential member to the requirement of the statutes of Cogeca, may be compromised. The crucial requirements for representativeness, national/inter-sectoral coverage and democratic control, should be verified by independent experts, prior to the request of membership. Submission of written proof of non-compliance, should lead to the rejection of request for membership.”*

We would also like to clarify as per our letter to you on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016: *“The purpose of GAIA-EPIXEIREIN is **for-profit**, through providing IT consulting services to farmers and agri-cooperatives. It is owned and controlled (2/3 of shares) by non-farmer*

*interests (Excelixi/Piraeus Bank and Neupublic SA, IT private company). Control is thus exerted solely by its shareholders and there is no democratic control whatsoever, given the legal provisions for commercial shareholding companies."*

We also underline the importance of maintaining the consistency that has been the cornerstone of credibility of Copa and Cogeca and express our deep concerns that a potential membership of GAIA EPIXEIREIN would essentially break this consistency since it is not an agricultural organisation. We are confident that the members of Copa and Cogeca will not allow to be exposed and be maliciously exploited by the misleading request of GAIA for membership.

We will therefore proceed in submitting our membership request supported by all necessary documentation, upon provision of the necessary assurances.

We are expecting your confirmation that you will thoroughly scrutinise the unfounded requested for membership of GAIA EPIXEIREIN and that you will not allow this to be discussed at the Praesidium, since it does not fulfil the minimum requirements for membership to Copa and to Cogeca.

In parallel we also expect your confirmation that you will support the request for succession of membership of PASEGES by that of NEA PASEGES, as a full member of Copa and of Cogeca, at the next Praesidia meetings of the two organisations.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Anestis', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Georgios Anestis  
Chairman of the interim board of NEA PASEGES

c.c. Mr Tzanetos Karamichas /President of PASEGES