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Past events

CELEP members co-organise “72 HOURS OF MILK”

CELEP members [Veterinarians Without Borders \(VSF\) Belgium](#) and [Oxfam](#) organised the “72 hours of milk” event held in Brussels on 8–12 April 2019. A short film “[Let’s not export our problems!](#)” explained how European milk (and milk byproduct) exports are inhibiting the local milk sector in West Africa. CELEP sponsored Dr Margareta Lelea from the [German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture \(DITSL\)](#) to share about research conducted as part of the [RELOAD](#) (Reducing Losses Adding Value) project on the small-scale dairy value chain in Kenya. Milk powder imports from Kenya face a 60% tariff under the current Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). She emphasised how milk from pastoralist and smallholder production systems is produced in more ecological ways and also the importance of the dairy value chain for providing livelihoods. A 3-page report by Margareta Lelea and Koen Van Troos on the event can be found [here](#).

Publication of statement stressing important role of pastoralism in Karamoja in Ugandan newspaper

At the end of May, messages were sent around in the CELEP Google Group highlighting the disturbing statements made by several members of the Ugandan Parliament (MPs) indicating their intention to abolish pastoralism. CELEP partner Karamoja Development Forum (KDF) therefore decided to react and was assisted by CELEP members and partners in writing a statement to denounce these statements by

the MPs. The statement was signed by CELEP – as a Coalition – and CELEP also asked members and partners whether they wanted their logos to be included in the final statement, which was published in the Uganda newspaper *New Vision* on 28 May. The final version of the statement as it was published in the newspaper can be found [here](#).

CELEP participation in Desertific’actions summit in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 19–22 June

This summit included a workshop on pastoralism, initiated by CELEP member International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). CELEP partner Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) represented by Tezera Getahun joined the meeting as well as regional focal point RECONCILE, represented by Ken Otieno, who facilitated the session. The workshop was entitled “Pastoralism and rangeland restoration: a practitioners’ dialogue for increased investment in pastoral management of the rangelands” and included presentations of cases from Jordan, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania. For Tanzania, the project on Participatory Rangelands Management, in which CELEP is involved, was presented. Also, Tezera presented [the background of the movement around the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists \(IYRP\)](#). The workshop ended with some clear recommendations stressing the role of customary institutions, the need for neighbouring countries to work together on the issue of transboundary transhumance, the importance of collaborative land governance, the issue of conflict and the adaptive capacity of pastoralists with regard to climate change. You can find a full report on the workshop [here](#).

CELEP participation in Third African Union–European Union Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome on 21 June

CELEP joined this important meeting in Rome on future collaboration in the field of agriculture between the AU and the EU. As mentioned on [the meeting website](#), the aim was “to further unlock the potential for a positive rural transformation and an inclusive and sustainable agriculture and agri-food sector in Africa”. The meeting focused for the greater part on the report of the Taskforce Rural Africa, mandated to set out priorities for future collaboration between the AU and the EU – and their respective Member States – in the field of agriculture.

CELEP was asked by the European Commission (DEVCO) to suggest a speaker to represent Eastern African farmers and pastoralists. Ms Sadia Ahmed – the country representative in Somaliland for CELEP member PENHA (Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa) – joined this important meeting to advocate for pastoralism during the different sessions. She highlighted the importance of pastoralism in several sessions and also made sure that pastoralism was well included in a statement made by AU and EU civil society organisations (CSOs) that joined the meeting. This final statement can be found [here](#). Sadia also made a write-up of her impressions of the meeting, with some interesting perspectives on how to continue lobbying for pastoralism in future AU–EU collaboration. You can find here write-up [here](#). The final political declaration of the meeting as well as the action agenda can be found [here](#). It will be important to follow up on this in future CELEP lobbying activities and also use this as an indicator for future budget allocation of the EU in terms of development aid.

CELEP participation to POLISES colloquium “Pastoralism in Transition”

CELEP was invited to participate to the concluding colloquium for the Junior Research Group POLISES (Policy Instruments and Social-Ecological Systems), held in Leipzig on 27–28 June. The event brought together researchers and practitioners interested in pastoral livelihoods in Africa and beyond. CELEP was represented by the European focal point; some other CELEP Google Group members also joined the colloquium. Several presentations were made by the POLISES team and other participants on their past and ongoing research related to pastoralism. The colloquium also included hands-on sessions in working groups to define – amongst others – what a policy brief should consist of. As an outcome, the

writing of a policy brief was planned. More information on the colloquium can be found [on the POLISES website](#). The presentation on CELEP can be downloaded [here](#).

Published documents

Pastoralists as family farmers

As reported in the previous update, CELEP – together with the International Land Coalition (ILC) Rangelands Initiative and the International Support Group (ISG) for the IYRP – published a 4-page illustrated brief “[Pastoralists as family farmers](#)” (March 2019) on how pastoralists should be particularly considered as family farmers. Since then, a French and Spanish version have also been published and can be found [here](#) and [here](#) on the CELEP website. In addition, a 10-page paper “[Pastoralists as family farmers – some more details](#)” was posted, which complements the above brief by outlining: i) features of pastoralists that identify them as family farmers; ii) the importance of pastoralists for the wellbeing of nations, people and the environment; iii) specificities of pastoral farming systems; iv) major challenges and emerging opportunities for pastoralists; and v) how pastoralists’ issues could be incorporated into policy advocacy activities during the United Nations [Decade of Family Farming](#) (DFF). The DFF was launched on 28 May at FAO Headquarters Rome. The statements were distributed thanks to the help of the ILC Rangelands Initiative and the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub at FAO.

Planned events

18–20 September, Tropentag conference, Kassel

As reported previously, CELEP will be very active at this year’s [Tropentag](#). European CELEP members – the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, and Veterinarians without Borders (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières) – are working together to organise a film festival on pastoralism. The call to submit films has now been closed. A selection of these films will also be used at the CELEP Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Brussels. Next to the film festival, CELEP will also organise a pre-conference workshop focusing [on the analysis on gaps in information on pastoralists and rangelands](#), which was presented at the recent Fourth United National Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) in Nairobi and which fed into the UNEA resolution on pastoralism and rangelands. The lead author of the gap analysis will be attending the pre-conference workshop to present the analysis.

16–18 October, CELEP Annual General Meeting

The CELEP Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be organised by VSF-Belgium on 16–18 October 2019 at the Funkey Hotel in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting will start on 16 October at lunchtime and will end with lunch on 18 October. More details on the programme will be shared early September. In addition to the CELEP AGM, a pre-AGM film festival will be organised on 15 October starting at 19h. This event will also be the occasion to celebrate ten years of CELEP. The films that will be showcased at this film festival will be a selection of the films that will be shown during the film festival at the Tropentag. Registration for the AGM is open until the end of September and can be done by completing the form under [this link](#). Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements unless they are contacted by members of the core-group. Participants should note that October is a busy period in Brussels; if they wish to stay at the Funkey Hotel – with affordable room rates starting at €69 per night – they should contact the hotel as soon as possible.

Update on lobbying/advocacy

Letter to support Mongolia's request for International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP)

In addition to the lobbying efforts to have attention given to pastoralists within the DFF, efforts are also underway to have a designated International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists. In June, the Government of Mongolia submitted a proposal to the COAG (Committee on Agriculture) of the FAO to call for an IYRP. Several organisations – particularly pastoralist(-support) organisations – sent their letters of support to the COAG. CELEP decided to send its own letter of support, which was drafted by the members of the core-group. You can find this letter [here](#).

EU lobbying/advocacy

Report of the Taskforce Rural Africa – Consultation – CELEP input

As mentioned in the reporting on the AU–EU meeting on agriculture in Rome on 21 June, the EU mandated a “Taskforce Rural Africa” to make a report with conclusions on how EU–AU collaboration should evolve in the field of agriculture. You can find the report online [here](#). Before the Rome meeting, the EU asked for feedback on this report through an online consultation. This consultation was very limited in that practically all questions were multiple choice, leaving only very little space to nuance and to give significant input to the report. This was also the conclusion of several CSOs/NGOs that made [a joint statement](#) regarding the report. The statement is quite critical of the report, highlighting its positive points but also the missed opportunities (i) to focus on local solutions and recommendations in its recommendations, (ii) to recognise and address power imbalances in decision-making processes and in agricultural value chains, and (iii) to address the EU’s growing thirst for overseas markets for its agri-food industry as opposed to Africa’s aspirations for the structural development of the national agri-food sector. The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) also published [a statement](#) highlighting the failure to include agro-ecology more prominently in the document.

The CELEP core-group decided to react on the report by urging members and partners to complete the online questionnaire. In order to do so, CELEP prepared [an analysis](#) of the report and [a template](#) on how the consultation was supposed to be completed. Specifically regarding the mentioning of pastoralism in the document, CELEP concluded that:

- The reference to pastoralism is problematic. In light of the territorial approach and the focus on land, natural resources and climate, pastoralism – as the most sustainable way of valuing drylands which cover 43% of Africa’s land, account for 75% of its agricultural area and are home to 50% of the population – is vital for African agriculture.
- The taskforce report focuses a lot on business and entrepreneurship. Pastoralism contributes significantly to the East African economy and offers huge perspectives in terms of trade and investment. In Kenya, for instance, the pastoralist sector has an overall value of €750 million and in Ethiopia, livestock exports constitute 20% of the national exports¹.
- Regarding the focus on land and natural resource management and the link to climate change, the contribution of pastoralism to fight climate change and land degradation needs to be recognised through EU–AU collaboration. The EU should work with the AU to assess status, conditions and trends in rangeland, pastoral land and pastoralism, considering the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) gap analysis ([UNEA resolution L17](#)).
- In addition, the particular mention in the report of land and legal frameworks on land is vital for pastoralists. It is pivotal to consolidate the legal framework for pastoralist (land) rights. This

¹ <http://www.celep.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Policybrief-CELEP-May-2017-Value-of-pastoralism.pdf>

means supporting pastoralist organisations to assure the implementation of the legal framework including access to courts and to the law in general. The EU should therefore increasingly support [the African Governance Architecture](#).

- With reference to research and innovation needs in light of the climate challenge, scientists need to recognise increasingly the creativity of pastoralists in adapting to climate change and need to collaborate with pastoralists in joint research, building on their indigenous knowledge, endogenous innovations and local development initiatives.

These were also part of the messages suggested to Sadia Ahmed when she joined the meeting in Rome to discuss this report.

Meetings with EU delegations – meeting in Kampala on 28 June

To follow up on the CELEP annual action plan, CELEP decided to organise a meeting in Kampala between representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) – European Commission delegation – and CELEP members and partners. These meetings are pivotal, as planning for the next programming cycle – which will define the focal sectors for EU development aid per country/region – will soon start. Initially, CELEP requested the EEAS to host a meeting for all members and partners based in Kampala. This however was refused, though the EEAS did indicate their availability and interest to meet with a smaller delegation. Following this, through Eastern African partner Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), a small delegation was composed of Longoli Simon Peter (Executive Director at KDF); Dr. Arasio, Raphel Lotiro (Tufts University/ Karamoja Resilience Support Unit (KRSU)) and the Honorary Remigio Achia (Ugandan MP). The delegation was hosted by the head of the Rural and Sustainable Development section at the EEAS office in Kampala. The meeting went very well and CELEP will follow up on its conclusions, focusing mainly on the inclusion of pastoralism in the programming cycle. The presentation that was used during the meeting can be downloaded [here](#). You can find the minutes of the meeting [here](#).

More of these meetings in Eastern Africa are likely to follow in the coming months. If you are interested in joining/co-organising one of them, please contact the European focal point of CELEP.

In addition, CONCORD (European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs) made a very comprehensive guide on the EU delegations, how they work and what the entry points are for the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). You can download this guide [here](#).

New EU Parliament and Commission

All over Europe, EU elections were organised on 23–26 May, resulting in the election of 751 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The results of the vote can be found [here](#). The biggest group in the Parliament remains the European Peoples’ Party (EPP), followed by the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D) and the Renew Europe Group, formally known as the Alliance for Democrats and Liberals for Europe. For CELEP, the election of a new Parliament is important, as the European Parliament has proven to be a strong ally for EU advocacy for pastoralism in Eastern Africa. MEP Norbert Neuser – who joined CELEP on a fact-finding mission to Uganda in 2015 – was re-elected and is now vice-chair of the committee on development (DEVE). This is the committee that will be most important for CELEP lobbying activities. The entire list of DEVE members can be found [here](#). Other important parliamentary committees for CELEP lobbying include the Subcommittee on Human Rights ([DROI](#)) under the committee on foreign affairs (AFET). The committee on women’s rights and gender ([FEMM](#)) can also be an entry point for advocacy. From August onwards, CELEP will start lobbying visits with targeted MEPs to identify a “champion”, an MEP who will take on pastoralism as an important focus within his/her work.



In addition to a new Parliament, [a new European Commission president was elected](#): former German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen. It is now up to her to come up with a new Commission. For CELEP, this means that there will most likely be a new Commissioner for Development.