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Biodata of speakers – Session 30th Anniversary Celebration

Jean –Pierre Halkin – European Commission

Jean-Pierre Halkin joined DG Development of Commission in 1986. From 1992 to 1997, he went to Côte d'Ivoire as Economic Adviser where he dealt with a broad portfolio which included notably rural development programmes focusing on value chains, regional trade, and access to market. In addition, Jean-Pierre Halkin was also in charge of the coordination of a vast food security intervention mitigating the impact of the Liberian war in four countries (Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone). Since then, he has been working in Brussels, in the field external relations where he occupied various posts including the coordination of the task force "Drugs/Money Laundering" or management of food security interventions in Asia. Jean-Pierre Halkin then shifted to more "organisational responsibilities" and was notably in charge of the Unit in charge a major reform of the management of thematic programmes, such as the Food Security Thematic Programme. In 2006, Jean-Pierre Halkin was appointed Head of the Unit in charge of methodological support for the following themes: Food Security and Nutrition, Rural Development and Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change. Since 2011, Jean-Pierre is in charge of the Unit in EuropeAid which is responsible for Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition. The Unit is responsible for policy development, methodological support and the management of financial instruments notably the Food Security Thematic Programme (€1.75 billion), the Accompanying Measures for the Sugar Protocol (€1.2 billion), and the Food Facility (€ 1 billion).

H.E. Frédéric Assomption Korsaga, – Ambassador of Burkina Faso

Economist and banker by training, Ambassador Korsaga took office as Chief of the Diplomatic Mission of Burkina Faso in Brussels in July 2012 and represents his country at the Benelux countries, the UK and Ireland as well as with the European Union and other international institutions including the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Ambassador Korsaga has extensive diplomatic experience, having in the past served as Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire and France. Before his current position, Ambassador Korsaga has held senior positions in banking institutions in Burkina Faso, and served several times as Minister in charge of economic departments (transport, environment, tourism, trade, finance and plan). With his experience in governmental economic governance, he was given the post of Commissioner for Economic Policy in the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA), an institution of integration involving eight countries of West Africa, where for ten years he has worked with Member States to create the conditions for better convergence of economic policies. In this capacity, he chaired the Committee for Franc Zone Convergence, the Steering Committee of the Regional Economic Programme (REP) of the UEMOA, and for several years the Association "Investing in the Franc Zone". After his tenure in the UEMOA, Mr. Korsaga joined the African Development Bank (ADB) as a director representing nine countries in West Africa, Central and Indian Ocean for three years. His last position before joining Brussels was as advisor to the President of Burkina Faso in charge of economic

issues. Ambassador Korsaga holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Montpellier in France and a Masters in Business Administration from the Institute of Business Administration of Montpellier. He also holds several bank certificates of Institut Technique de Banque in Paris.

Kalilou Sylla – Executive Secretary, ROPPA, West Africa

Kalilou Sylla – Executive Secretary, ROPPA With a PhD in Agricultural Economics and of Ivorian nationality, Sylla Kalilou began his career working in the office of the Prime Minister in Ivory Coast as well as an Expert in Monitoring and Evaluation of agricultural and economic projects, while simultaneously teaching at the University of Abidjan. He successively held several teaching and senior research positions, was Head of Department of Macroeconomic Policies and Modeling, Deputy Coordinator of the Observatory of Public Opinion (EU Project) and Deputy Director of the Ivorian Center of Economic and Social Research. He then served as a technical advisor and president of the committee of agricultural policy (UEMOA-ECOWAS-NEPAD) at the Ministry of Agriculture in his country and as Expert of Agricultural Policy and Trade at the Conference of Ministers in West Africa and Central Africa (CMA/AOC) before joining ECOWAS as the Head of the Office of the Commissioner of Macroeconomic Policies. Furthermore, he is the author of around thirty articles that have been published in scientific journals and the co-author of five books on development in Africa as well as the recipient of academic honors in his country (prize for the best doctoral theses in economics in 1998 and best research project in economics in 2000). Since 1 September 2012 he has held the position of Executive Secretary for ROPPA.

Eric Tollens - Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain

Professor Eric Tollens is Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) since 1983.

Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University; M.A. Economics, Michigan State University (1971); Agricultural Engineer, K.U.Leuven.

He has been Professor of Agricultural Economic at Université Nationale du Zaïre, Yangambi; Administrator, Commission of the European Communities, EUROSTAT, Luxemburg; Member Scientific and Technical Council of ISRA, Dakar; Member of the Board of Trustees, IITA, Ibadan; Member WARDA 4th EPMR Panel; Chairman of WARDA 5th EPMR Panel; President of the Scientific and Technical Council for the relaunching of agricultural and forestry research in the DRC; Member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ICRAF; Associate member of the Belgian Academy of Overseas Sciences; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia, 2010-2013; Member of KBC's external advisory council "sustainable investments"; 2012-2016; Member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), Dakar; Member of the Mid-Term Review of the Joint Review (EPMR and MTR) of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA, 2011); 2013-2016: Member of the Board of Trustees, AfricaRice, Cotonou, Benin.

It is among the top most cited economists in the world agriculture and trade. Published more than 200 scientific publications in the field of agricultural development and trade.