



PRESS RELEASE

10/03/2017

Brussels, Belgium

Ahead of the EU-Mercosur round of negotiations starting on 20th March 2017, CELCAA exposed its interests for a balanced agreement to the EU Chief Negotiator and Member States. CELCAA welcomes the constructive dialogue with Commission and Member States, especially on ways to tackle SPS barriers to access Mercosur market.

At the occasion of its Board meeting held on 9th March 2017, CELCAA members held an exchange of views with Ms. Sandra Gallina, Director for Sustainable Development at Directorate General for Trade and EU Chief Negotiator for the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement Negotiations. CELCAA reiterated the importance of protecting sensitive products and the priority to dismantle the SPS barriers impeding EU exports to Mercosur, in parallel to the market access negotiations. CELCAA members in particular asked for a strong SPS chapter in the EU-Mercosur FTA including clear and predictable deadlines and processes for authorisation to export to Mercosur countries.

Commission and CELCAA had an open and frank discussion. CELCAA was pleased to hear the Commission's interests in the proposed measures to improve SPS issues put forward by the agricultural food trade representatives. CELCAA will continue to exchange constructively with the Commission on these issues.

In the evening, CELCAA invited Agricultural and Trade attachés of Member States for a discussion on the offensive and defensive interests of CELCAA members. Presentations made included the perspective of the wine; dairy and Fruit and Vegetable trade sectors as well as the grain and agro-supply and the egg and egg products sectors. Presentations are available [here](#).

***CELCAA** is the EU umbrella association representing EU organisations covering the trade in cereals, grains, oils and fats, sugar, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, agro-supply, animal feed, wine, meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, eggs and egg products, poultry and game, tobacco, spices, cut flowers and plants and general produces. Members include CEEV, CIBC, COCERAL, EUCOLAIT, EUWEP, FETRATAB, GAFTA, SACAR and UECBV. CELCAA's main objectives are to facilitate understanding of European decision-makers and stakeholders on the role played by the European traders in agri-products; to act as a platform of dialogue and communication with the European Institutions and to encourage public and general interests in agri-trade issues.*

ENDS

For further information:

Pascale Rouhier

Secretary General

CELCAA - European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade

10 rue de Tamines

1060 Brussels- BE

Tel: (32) 488 36 83 47

www.celcaa.eu

info@celcaa.eu - p.rouhier@celcaa.eu