



PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNICATION ON TRADE POLICY IS GOOD WAY FORWARD- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY WILL DELIVER CONCRETE BENEFITS FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR

At their Board meeting organized today in Brussels, CELCAA members welcomed the Communication on the future Trade and Investment Strategy, adopted on 14th October 2015 by the College of Commissioners.

In an exchange of views with Mr. Ceballos Baron, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström, CELCAA members stressed that EU export policy should support the agricultural sector, especially in view of the Russian ban and crisis in some sectors, while recognizing the importance of import to ensure security of supply for EU processors, farmers and consumers. The new trade policy should also recognize the EU's high standards of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection.

In addition, CELCAA supports the orientations given by the Communication to give a particular focus on the implementation of the existing agreements and adopt all possible means to tackle non-tariff barriers and promote the recognition of the EU as a single entity from trade partners.

Finally, CELCAA supports the ambition of the Commission to conclude ambitious trade deals with trading partners and asks the Commission to do so in a timely manner – to guarantee that EU traders are not at disadvantage with competitors entering the same priority markets.

Paul Rooke, President CELCAA: *"As chair of the European Agri-food trade, I strongly welcome the Communication. This document paves the way for future concrete actions – such as monitoring and evaluating proper implementation of Free Trade Agreements; using all possible ways to reinforce regulatory cooperation in Free Trade Agreements, tackling non-tariff barriers or full implementation of Geographical Indications; or opening the doors to new markets – all elements which are crucial for the agri-food business in time where the EU market is stagnating and where we seek diversification of exports.*

The European agriculture sector has seen significant reform since 1992 and is now a strong competitor on the world market for many products – wine, dairy, pig, cereals sectors, to name few. With the introduction of trade-distorting measures continuing to be seen in a number of third countries, the EU must ensure it implements a trade policy to delivers concrete benefits for the agricultural sector".

CELCAA is the EU umbrella association representing EU organisations covering the trade in cereals, grains, oils and fats, olive oil, agro-supply, animal feed, wine, meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, eggs and egg products, poultry and game, tobacco, spices and general produces. Members include CEEV, CIBC, COCERAL, EUCOLAIT, EUWEP, FETRATAB, GAFTA EU, UECEV and FC2A. 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.

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For further information:

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