



PRESS RELEASE

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FTA negotiations should not allow sensitive areas to be sidestepped, says CELCAA

'The sensitivity of some agricultural goods must be given proper consideration by the Commission when they embark on new trade negotiations', according to CELCAA, the European agricultural trade voice.

"With a highly competitive European agricultural sector there are real opportunities to benefit from greater access to the world market and we welcome the commitment that is being put into the wide range of agreements the EU is seeking to reach" said Paul Rooke, CELCAA President. "At the same time we must ensure the EU's high level of environmental and animal welfare standards and their impact on production costs in the egg, poultry and meat sectors, is fully recognised as a sensitive area within the discussions. As negotiating parameters are scoped out ahead of substantive discussions, defensive interests, particularly where they are supported by EU consumer requirements, must be properly accounted for", he concluded.

As part of this process, CELCAA is calling on the Commission to produce thorough impact assessments on the impact of additional market access for products considered as sensitive in the EU, including the cumulative impact of concessions through TRQs, before starting any new Free Trade negotiations.

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 and UECEBV. 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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