



PRESS RELEASE

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THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TAKES STOCK OF THE EU AGRI-FOOD TRADE PRIORITIES

The European Parliament Members have acknowledged the crucial role played by the trade in the agri-food chain as they connect producers to consumers, through distribution capacities and services. CELCAA asked for the Parliament's support for ambitious market access in FTA's being negotiated with trading partners including tackling non-tariff barriers, export bans or tariff issues.

CELCAA, the European Umbrella representing the agri-food trade, organised a lunch-debate hosted by MEP Daniel Caspary, EPP coordinator at INTA, at the European Parliament on the 5th November 2014. Members of European Parliament had the opportunity to exchange with representatives of the trade on technical and horizontal issues, and from various commodities' sectors. Participants included Members of European Parliament Mr. Andrieu, Mr. Dantin, Ms. Herranz-Garcia, Mr. Landsbergis, Ms. Mosca, Mr. Pabriks, Mr. Proust, Mr. Zalba-Bidegain; political advisers; INTA Secretariat and more than 30 experts from trade sectorial associations.

In his welcoming speech Daniel Caspary supported the CELCAA initiative aiming at strengthening the networking between MEPs and the umbrella organisation of the trade in agri-commodities in Europe and generally speaking, promoting a structured dialogue between civil society and policy makers. EPP coordinator stressed the number of FTAs that the EU is engaged in, stressing the role of the European Parliament on trade matters with the Lisbon Treaty.

Daniel Caspary stated: *"The role of the European Parliament in trade matters is key – as it has the power to give its ascent or object on a FTA deal. As markets become more diverse in their requirements and the sourcing of products becomes more complex, the value of a strong and effective agri-trade sector is vital in delivering the requirements of both consumers and producers"*.

Paul Rooke, President of CELCAA stated: *"The lunch debate format has proven successful. We are delighted that many Members of European Parliament from the INTA Committee but also from COMAGRI have taken the opportunity to engage in discussions with representatives of the trade in agri-commodities. CELCAA is committed to this dialogue and looks forward to play an active role in providing technical expertise as the discussions accelerate"*.



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, poultry and game, tobacco, spices and general produces. Members include CEEV, CIBC, COCERAL, EUCOLAIT, EUWEP, FETRATAB, GAFTA EU, 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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