



PRESS RELEASE

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TRADE CONTRIBUTION TO EU AGRICULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH ENDORSED BY HIGH LEVEL DECISION-MAKERS, AT A ROUND TABLE ORGANISED AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 21ST APRIL

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan; Cabinet Member of Commissioner for Trade, Mr Ceballos Baron and European Parliament Members acknowledged the crucial role played by the trade in the agricultural sector in the EU, in an event hosted by MEP SCHAAKE, and organised by CELCAA on 21st April 2015 at the European Parliament.

CELCAA, the European Umbrella representing the agri-food trade, organised a round table hosted by MEP M. Schaake, ALDE coordinator at INTA, at the European Parliament on 21st April 2015. The event featured the intervention of Commissioner Hogan; Cabinet of Commissioner Malmström; as well as presentations from Rabobank and traders in wine and in grains.

CELCAA asked the support of the EU decision-makers to achieve ambitious market access in the free trade agreements, including tackling non-tariff barriers, as well as their support for the completion of the internal market. More than 80 participants attended the round table and Q&A, including Members of European Parliament, Commission representatives, Permanent Representations of Member States and missions of third countries, as well as stakeholders from the farm sector to the industry.

Commissioner Hogan stated that *"export markets are crucial for the development of the EU agricultural sector, making it a key generator of wealth, growth and jobs."*

MEP Schaake stressed that on TTIP in particular *"We need a broad and fact based debate on TTIP, so that we have clear priorities for the negotiations and can work towards a TTIP that can deliver for Europeans while safeguarding the standards we cherish. Meetings with sectors that have important interests are crucial in this regard"*.

"The EU is a reliable supplier and exporter of commodities like wheat, pork and dairy and trade is key for the income of global and EU farmers", stressed Stefan Vogel, Rabobank.

For Jean-Marie Barillère, Chair of CEEV, *"the EU is the world's leading producer, consumer, exporter and importer of wine and we must reinforce our leadership with an ambitious external trade policy. Due to the shift in the geography of wine consumption in the world, the future of EU wine lies in exports"*.

Sébastien Picardat, from the French trade highlighted that *'European SME's meet the needs of the internal market and guarantee the smooth intra-trade of goods between Member States; the role of SME's can be further strengthened through the creation of more efficient logistical infrastructures'*.

Paul Rooke, President of CELCAA expressed his great satisfaction to see that the subject of the event attracted so many participants: *'We see three main points as the contribution of the trade to the EU agricultural sector: a key value in the agri-business sector; an opportunity for growth especially for SMEs on the EU internal market; and a contribution to food security while facilitating exchange of goods. CELCAA is committed to continue its dialogue with the EU Institutions in this respect'*.

Presentations made during the event are available at <http://celcaa.eu/events>

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For further information:

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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.