



PRESS RELEASE

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Ahead of the European Parliament elections, CELCAA launched its 2014 Elections Manifesto during a high level event entitled 'Trade for a better market' organised at the European Parliament on 10th February 2014. The Manifesto calls on the Institutions to recognise the role played by the trade on the market and along the supply chain, to improve predictability of the regulatory framework, as well as to complete ambitious Free Trade Agreements with third trading partners, while removing artificial barriers to trade globally and on the EU internal market. The document asks to enhance EU trade negotiators relations with trade operators on the ground, who can serve as 'trade advisers' to negotiating teams. Finally, the Manifesto proposes the creation of a European Parliament inter-group on trade in agri-food products in the next legislature.

The 'Trade for a better market' event, hosted by Vital Moreira, INTA Chairman and Paolo De Castro, COMAGRI Chairman, featured a debate on the role of the trade in the supply chain, including interventions from Frank Hoffmeister, from Cabinet to Commissioner for International Trade Karel De Gucht, Vito Martielli, analyst from Rabobank, Jonathan Brooks, senior economist at OECD, Marcel Combot, trader and chair of the Market and Agricultural Policy section at COCERAL, and Jack Baines, trader and President of EUCOLAIT. The first panel discussed the role of the trade contributing to food security in a global context, while the second panel discussed the role of the trade in the EU-market.

More than 60 people attended the event, including Members of European Parliament, think-thanks, farmers, industry and retail organisations as well as traders, Member States and third countries' representatives.

Paolo De Castro, COMAGRI Chairman insisted that "*Trade play a key role and is a key value for the European agri-food sector; it is an important opportunity for the social and economic growth, while it valorises the agriculture sector*".

Vito Martielli, from Rabobank stressed: "*Traders have new roles to play in integrated supply chains as upstream and downstream players expand their roles and global and regional trade increasingly balances supply and demand needs*".

Paul Rooke, President CELCAA: "*Looking at the high number of participants and the lively debate, I believe that there is a lot of interest on the role of the trade in the market; CELCAA is committed to engage in discussions with the European Parliament and Institutions, as well as with European stakeholders. We see three main points for the trade: 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 Manifesto is addressed to all decision-makers, calling for the recognition of the positive role of the trade, and calling for some policy improvement to use the full opportunities that are there for the agri-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, 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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