



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Brexit: CELCAA calls for measures to be adopted as a matter of urgency, regardless of the outcome of the Withdrawal negotiations**

Meeting in Geneva on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018, a CELCAA delegation ran a series of meeting with the World Trade Organisation Secretariat, and some Missions to the WTO, to understand the process for the UK to determine its own WTO Schedule of Commitments, as well as the process for the EU27 and the UK to allocate current WTO Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQS).

At this occasion, CELCAA delegates called on both sides of the channel to adopt a series of measures as a matter of urgency, regardless of the outcome of the Withdrawal negotiations, to ensure the maintenance of the EU-UK trade flows. In particular, CELCAA calls for the finalisation of the WTO TRQs allocations negotiations, that should be realistic and economically viable for both parties as well as for exporting partners; to assess urgently the needs of competent authorities in terms of capacity-building (IT systems, infrastructure, equipment, new procedures for the issuance of certificates, etc.); to provide assistance to agri-food operators, mostly used to trading within the Single Market, to ease their adaptation to the new reality such as procedures for exports; customs arrangements and VAT procedures. In addition, CELCAA calls for existing mechanisms to be implemented when it comes to EU27-UK trade, such as the promotion of Authorised Economic Operators and the use of the Registered Exporter System (REX).

Paul Rooke, CELCAA president stressed that *"with 9 months left ahead of a possible UK exit of the EU, in case an agreement on the withdrawal fails to materialize, food business operators and Member States authorities should equally prepare. For food business operators, it is of paramount importance to understand all the customs process that will need to be met to be able to trade between the EU and the UK and resources should be invested in capacity-building and information by Member States and Commission"*.

**Position paper of CELCAA can be found [here](#).**

#### **ENDS**

#### **For further information:**

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