



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels

25th June 2019

CELCAA applauds the Council decision to sign the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement

CELCAA, the European Umbrella organisation representing the trade in agri-food and commodities, welcomes today Council's decision to sign the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement next 30th June. The agreement, concluded by negotiators in December 2015, confirms the EU as a world leader when it comes to supporting free and fair trade and collaboration in the area of sustainability with its trading partners. In times of rising protectionism and nationalism, the EVFTA is a positive signal towards partnership between the EU and the rest of the world.

The EU- Vietnam Free Trade Agreement will support exports of EU agri-food products to a market of 94,5 million people, with an increasing growing middle class. The agreement will help EU exporters to compete for market-share in Vietnam, as major food and agri-trade competitors from other parts of the world already benefit from the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

For the EU agri-food trade, EVFTA provides for full elimination of tariffs on EU exports to Vietnam in no more than 7 years -, with the exception of some sensitive products; tariffs on EU beef exports will be eliminated in 3 years; on pork in 7 years and on poultry in 10 years; tariffs on dairy will be liberalized over 5 years with shorter time periods on most cheeses, milk powder and liquid milk; and elimination of tariffs on wine in 7 years.

EU import duties on Vietnamese exports will be fully liberalized, with some Tariff Rates Quotas (for rice for example) .The agreement also recognizes the WTO SPS agreement and international standards as benchmark. In addition, Vietnam recognizes a list of 169 Geographical Indications and the agreement provides for legal framework of enforcement of IPRs in Vietnam. Finally the agreement includes a specific chapter on trade and customs facilitation to simplify rules and procedures in Vietnam.

Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA president expressed his deep satisfaction *`to see the EVFTA finally adopted by the Council. This agreement will allow for greater economic ties between the two partners, but will also support a rule-based trading system, with the recognition of international standards as benchmark'.* *`We now look forward to engage with the European Parliament for a swift consent, Marcel added.*

CELCAA is the EU umbrella association representing EU organisations covering the trade in cereals, grains, oils and fats, sugar, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, agro-supply, animal feed, wine, meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, eggs and egg products, poultry and game, tobacco, spices, cut flowers and plants and general produces. Members include CEEV, CIBC, COCERAL, EUCOLAIT, EUWEP, FETRATAB, FRESHFEL, GAFTA, SACAR and UECEV. 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.

ENDS

For further information:

Pascale Rouhier

Secretary General

www.celca.eu

p.rouhier@celcaa.eu

If you wish to stop receiving communications from us, you will be able to do so by noticing the CELCAA Secretariat at p.rouhier@celcaa.eu