



PRESS RELEASE

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CELCAA reiterates the agri-food trade priorities in a working-lunch moderated by Honorable Member of European Parliament Marie-Pierre Vedrenne.

The French agri-food trade associations, under the umbrella CELCAA, presented their priorities to the French European Members of the European Parliament at a working lunch moderated by MEP Marie-Pierre Vedrenne on 3rd December 2019. Sectors representing the wine, grain, sugar, dairy, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, and egg products' trade stressed the necessity of proper implementation of Free Trade Agreements and the need for an ambitious promotion policy. They regretted that the agri-food sector has been a target in the Airbus-Being trade dispute and asked for the sector not to be a collateral damage in trade frictions. They called the Parliament to take stock of the progress achieved in the chapter of sustainability in agriculture when discussing the future Commission Communication on the EU green deal, to guarantee that the European Union continues to maintain its position of first exporter of agri-food products. Finally, the French traders voiced their strong support to the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Member of European Parliament Marie-Pierre Vedrenne recalled that the European Union is the first exporter of agri-food products with €138 billion worth of exports and €117 billion of imports in 2018. MEP Vedrenne stated that *'the safety and high quality of the French and EU agri-food products are well known and there is an increasing demand worldwide for our products. There are however numerous challenges ahead of us, such as raising protectionism, the urgent need to reform the WTO and its appeal system, and complexities in implementation of Free Trade Agreements. This Parliament is keen to exchange with experts to adopt the best-suited legislation to promote the EU as a leader in the international scene'*.

Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA president added that *'the consent of the European Parliament on the EU-Vietnam Trade Agreement is important for the EU agri-food sector. The sector expects to export the value of 800 million € from tariff liberalisation with Vietnam, while opening the door with the ASEAN region of 648 million of people. The EU shall lead on the free and fair trade and shall continue to tackle rising protectionism'*.

Presentations will be made available here: www.celcaa.eu

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 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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