



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels

28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **CELCAA calls the European Parliament to provide swift consent to the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement in a high level conference at the European Parliament**

**Speaking on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the High Level Conference organised by rapporteur Geert Bourgeois on EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement, CELCAA President Marcel van der Vliet called the Parliament for a swift ratification of the deal. In times of trade frictions and Brexit, the EVFTA is a positive signal towards partnership between the EU and the rest of the world and also concurs to export diversification of agri-food products. "Concluded in 2015, time has come for swift ratification" Marcel insisted.**

Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA president, was invited in a panel discussion at the occasion of a high level conference on EU-Vietnam, hosted on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 by Member of European Parliament Geert Bourgeois, rapporteur on EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement. The conference included interventions from Trade Commissioner Mr. Phil Hogan, and Vice-Minister of International Trade Mr. Tran Quoc Khanh and was followed by a panel discussion including Mr. Giorgio Aliberti, Ambassador of the EU to Vietnam, Dr. Roopa Nair, Head of Operations at Better Work Vietnam, a program of the International Labor Organisation and Marcel van der Vliet, from CELCAA. Bernd Lange, Chair of the INTA Committee, provided the closing remarks.

The EU- Vietnam Free Trade Agreement will support exports of EU agri-food products to a market of almost 100 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).

Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA president stressed *'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. In time of Brexit and when agri-food products are collateral damage of trade disputes, securing market access in Asia can be seen as a tool to help export diversification'*.

**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**

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