

EU-UK relations post-2020: Agri-food chain welcomes the continuation of the negotiations but ask for clarity and support

(Brussels, 16 October 2020) The EU agri-food chain supports the continuation of the negotiations in the coming weeks and we are pleased the EU reaffirmed its determination to have a close partnership with the UK on the basis of the EU negotiations directives, while maintaining the integrity of the single market.

Nevertheless, it's a tale of another summit and another very worrying outcome for Europe's farmers, agri-cooperatives, food businesses and traders. Where our businesses seek certainty, they are given confusion. Where they seek speed, they have delay.

Businesses in the food and farming sectors are under intense strain from Covid-19, and now a devastating no deal looms ever closer - a result which will heap more pressure on businesses, threaten thousands of jobs and put a large dent in annual EU-UK trade worth €58 billion.

We are calling the European Commission to carefully consider the impacts of Brexit on the European agri-food sector and ensure that it will substantially and swiftly benefit from the 5 billion Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Exceptional circumstances require exceptional measures. Therefore, the EU must also make structural and adjustment funding available to the agri-food sector (from outside of the CAP budget).

At the same time, we call on the EU to develop and rapidly implement pragmatic supporting measures to counteract the negative impacts of this process, and on the UK to swiftly clarify regulatory unknowns, so that the agri-food chain can continue to operate and provide safe, affordable and accessible food to consumers whether under a deal or no-deal scenario.

ENDS

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About us:

[Copa and Cogeca](#) are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 23 million farmers

and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They are one of the biggest and most active lobbying organisations in Brussels.

[CELCAA](#) is the EU umbrella association representing the trade in agri-food and commodities to the EU Institutions and stakeholders, representing more than 35,000 trading companies. We cover the trade in cereals, grains, oil, sugar, animal feed, wine, meat and meat products, dairy and dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, tobacco, spices and nuts, cut flowers and plants and general produces.

[FoodDrinkEurope](#) represents the food manufacturing industry. Made up of 294,000 businesses and 4.7 million workers, the food and drink industry buys 70% of all EU agricultural produce and is Europe's largest manufacturing industry.