



PRESS RELEASE

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CELCAA welcomes the projections of the [Joint Research Center' study on the cumulative effects of Trade Agreements on agri-food sectors](#) and calls for a healthy debate on trade, based on concrete facts and scientific research.

CELCAA, the European umbrella organisation representing the trade in agri-food and commodities, welcomes the JRC study published on 26th January reflecting on the recent conclusions of twelve free trade agreements and providing projections on the potential impact of these agreements on trade flows of EU agri-food sectors. This study proves that the EU agricultural sector can benefit from an ambitious EU trade agenda. This study is a crucial step to help EU decision-makers and citizens make informed judgements on the effects of EU trade agreements based on facts and data. Key findings and conclusions can be used to assess the effects of EU trade policy on the EU agri-food sector, ahead of the release of the new EU Trade Policy Strategy expected mid-February.

The European Union is world leader in agri-food trade, representing EUR 151.2 in exports and EUR 119.3 billion in imports respectively in 2019. The study, covering the impact of twelve Free Trade Agreements - including the FTA with South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Canada and Mercosur, but also those currently under negotiation such as Australia, New Zealand and Thailand demonstrates the positive impact of trade for the agri-food sector. This study proves that the right balance has been found by EU negotiators, between offering more export opportunities to EU farmers and agri-food processors, whilst protecting sensitive sectors and product categories through a balanced set of Tariff Rate Quotas.

The study also shows that open market policy bears fruit and remains necessary in order to find new outlets for our farmers and their valuable produce. This study comes at a timely moment, where the Commission is expected to release mid-February its new 'Open Strategic Autonomy' trade strategy.

Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA President stated *'This study is particularly welcome and timely, as it allows having a healthy and informed debate based on concrete facts, performance and scientific research - ahead of the EU new Trade Policy Strategy'*.

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