

RECONCILING SUSTAINABILITY & OPENNESS

Trade perspectives in agri-food & commodities

29th March 2022
2-4.30pm

On-line event



Trade in agri-food represents a key element of the European economic growth, supporting farmers' income and agri-food sector's competitiveness. In 2020, exports in agri-food were valued at €184.3 billion, maintaining the EU as the world's leading agri-food exporter while consolidating its position of second largest global importer, at a value of €122.2 billion.

The European Union has embarked in a transition towards more sustainability, as put forward in the **Farm to Fork Strategy** and in the **EU Trade Strategy for an open, sustainable and assertive trade policy**. There are several work streams on sustainability including a Sustainable Food Chapter in new Free Trade Agreements, the revision of the Generalised System of Preference focusing on sustainability; engagement at international standards organisations; or through sectoral legislations impacting EU production but also imports. The revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides is one illustration of this later workstream.

In June 2022, the European Commission is expected to release a report containing an assessment of the rationale and legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products in conformity

with WTO rules. In parallel, the French Presidency has made the point of more reciprocity in trade in agri-food one of its priorities.

While embarking towards even more sustainability, it is important to recognise the progress made by farmers and operators in the chain in terms of implementation of animal welfare, social and environmental standards, with the EU having some of the most stringent legislation in these areas. It is also important to reiterate that any imports entering the bloc shall meet European food safety rules - including some provisions on animal welfare and/or on processing methods in the meat sector.

The CELCAA conference will discuss how to reconcile the path towards greater sustainability while maintaining openness of trade with the European Union. Panellists will exchange on how trade can contribute to the transition towards more sustainability in the EU and globally, how to engage with trading partners based on more collaboration and avoiding trade frictions; and finally, how to articulate the concept of Sustainable Food Systems in practice.

2-2.15pm	Opening statement
	<p>Valdis Dombrovskis Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Trade Commissioner European Commission (Video)</p> <p>EU Trade Strategy- Reconciling openness of trade and pathway towards greater sustainability</p>
2.15-3.15pm	<p>Panel discussion: Sustainability in the food supply chain – what is the way forward? Moderation by Rose O’Donovan, Editor -in- Chief AGRA FACTS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frédéric LAMBERT Head of Europe and International Department, Direction Générale de la Performance Economique et Environnementale des Entreprises, Ministère de l’Agriculture et de l’Alimentation, France • Claire Bury Deputy Director-General, Food sustainability - International relations, Directorate-General Health and Food Safety • Paolo De Castro Member of the European Parliament, Member of COMAGRI and INTA, Rapporteur on Farm To Fork Strategy • Raphael Latz General Manager, Louis Dreyfus Company Distribution, France
3.15-3.30pm	Break
3.30-4.30pm	<p>Panel discussion: Sustainability and open trade – striking the right balance Moderation by Rose O’Donovan, Editor-in-Chief, AGRA FACTS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petros Mavroidis Professor of Foreign and Comparative Law Columbia Law School • Mauricio González-Gordon President of Comité Européen des Entreprises Vin, Chairman of Wine family Business González Byass • Louise Dangy France Codex Contact Point Secrétariat général des affaires européennes, Prime minister services - France • Claire Bury Deputy Director-General, Food sustainability - International relations, Directorate-General Health and Food Safety • Rupert Schlegelmilch Acting Deputy Director-General, Director for the Americas and Agriculture and Food safety, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission
4.30pm	Conclusion
	Marcel van der Vliet, CELCAA President