



Joint statement

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC condemn the European Commission College proposal for nationalization of GM crop imports for food and feed use as a slap in the face to the EU livestock sector and a rebuff to the Single Market

Brussels, 22 April 2015

The proposal adopted on 22 April by the European Commission which allows Member States to ban food and feed use of EU authorised GM crops has the potential to trigger a meltdown of the European livestock economy with massive job losses and a complete brake to investments.

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC representing commodity trade, oil crushing and compound feed manufacturing call on the EU Council and the European Parliament to block any political agreement on the Commission's proposal which will "bust" the Internal Market for feed, food and livestock products. Any application of the envisaged GM crop use ban by Member States would lead to an irreversible loss of competitiveness in the EU livestock sector, thus destroying hundred thousands of jobs, due to farm foreclosures and shutdown of processing plants mostly in rural areas with limited job alternatives.

The EU depends for 75% of its needs for protein-rich ingredients for feeding purposes on the global world markets, with soybean meal accounting for 30 – 35 million tons annually, as the most important protein-rich feed ingredient, with no viable alternative.

FEFAC President Ruud Tijssens highlighted that *"EU livestock farmers in "opt-out" countries will be the first victims of the new proposal by facing significant cost increases when losing access to vital imports of protein-rich ingredients"*.

FEDIOL President Kevin Brassington stated that *"The proposal is harmful not only to business, but to Europe. We fail to understand how a draft law with such far reaching implications can be issued without any prior analysis of its potential damage to both the industry and the internal market."*

COCERAL President Paul Della Tolla stressed that *"instead of guaranteeing legal certainty to operators and the right to choose for farmers and consumers, the Commission is destroying the most valuable asset of its common policy, the single market, which has provided jobs & prosperity to millions of EU citizens"*.

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC therefore condemn the European Commission's move to push through the proposal without having performed any economic impact assessment and consultation of food and feed chain partners. This is a blatant violation of the new Commission's ambition to create "better regulation" and to provide more transparency in the legislative process.

END

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COCERAL is the European association of cereals, rice, feedstuffs oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply trade. It represents the interest of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above mentioned agricultural products. **COCERAL's** full members are **30 national associations in 19 countries** [Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK] and **1 European association** [Unistock] With about **2700 companies** as part of **COCERAL** national members, the sector trades agricultural raw materials destined to the supply of the food and feed chains, as well as for technical and energy uses. **COCERAL** has two associated members in Switzerland and Serbia.

FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and protein meal industry association, represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meal producers, vegetable oils producers, refiners and bottlers. **FEDIOL's** members are **12 national associations** and associated company members in **5 other EU countries**. With about **150 facilities** in Europe the sector provides **20.000 direct employments**. Its members process approximately **36 million tonnes** of basic products a year, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets. The sector processes notably rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybeans and linseed into oils and meals for food, feed, technical and energy uses essentially on the European market.

FEFAC is the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation. **FEFAC** represents **25 national Associations** in **24 EU Member States** as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status, and is the only independent spokesman of the European Compound Feed Industry at the level of the European Institutions. The European compound feed industry employs over **110,000 persons** on app. **4,000 production sites** often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.