

Brussels, 8 April 2015

PRESS RELEASE

## **EU food and feed chain partners reject EU Commission move to undermine the Internal Market for Agri-food products**

The EU Food and feed chain partners urged European Commission President Juncker today to reject any attempt to renationalize EU market authorisations of genetically modified crops for feed and food use. Properly implementing the existing legislation should be the main priority for the Commission before starting further reflections on changing the current market authorisation procedure.

Speaking on behalf of the EU Food and Feed Chain partners, Pekka Pesonen, Copa-Cogeca Secretary General warned the European Commission about the severe economic and social impact of this proposal, which will severely jeopardize the Internal Market for food and feed products, leading to significant job losses and lower investment in the agri-food chain in “opt-out” countries. This would cause severe distortions of competition for all EU agri-food chain partners.

The EU food and feed chain partners call on the Commissioner College to fulfil their role as “Guardians of the EU treaties” and reject this approach which would reverse the economic achievements of the European Customs Union and the Single Market.

The announced initiative fails to meet the basic requirements of the EU treaties and strongly calls into question the new Commission political priorities on “jobs & growth” and the “better and smart regulation agenda”. The proposal is due to be officially released by the EU Commission on 15 April.

**Notes to the editor (list of FFC members):**



**a.v.e.c.** is since 1966 representing and promoting the interests of the European poultry meat sector. Members are national organisations representing poultry processors and the poultry trade in 16 EU countries with about 95% of the EU poultry meat production. The European poultry meat business employs more than 300 000 citizens and has a turnover of more than 32 billion Euros.

**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 26 national associations in 18 countries, and 1 European association [Unistock]. With about 2500 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.

**Copa-Cogeca** is 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 have 66 member organisations from the EU member states.

**ESA** European Seed Association is the voice of the European seed sector, representing those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds. Its membership consists of more 36 national seed associations, representing more than 7000 seed businesses, and of more than 60 individual company members.

**EuropaBio** is the European Association of BioIndustries. Our members are involved in research, development, testing, manufacturing and commercialisation of biotech products and processes in human and animal healthcare, diagnostics, bioinformatics, chemicals, crop protection, agriculture, food and environmental products and services. EuropaBio also counts a number of National Biotech Associations in its membership who in turn represent more than 1800 biotech SMEs.

The **European Flour Millers'** association is the voice of the European flour milling industry. It gathers the national associations from 28 European countries. They represent 3 800 companies employing some 45 000 people. With some 45 million t of agricultural commodities processed in the EU each year, the sector is the largest single food user of EU domestic wheat, rye and oats.

**EUVEPRO** is the European Vegetable Protein Federation representing the interest of the producers of vegetable proteins for human consumption in the EU.

**FEDIOL**, the EU vegetable oil and proteinmeal 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.

**FEFAC** is the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation. FEFAC represents 24 national Associations in 23 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia, 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.

The **Federation of European Rice Millers** is the voice of the European rice milling industry. FERM is made up of 21 company members from around Europe as well as 3 national rice milling associations of Italy, Spain and Portugal. In representing over 90% of the milling capacity in Europe it is able to reflect credibly and authoritatively the interests of the industry.

**Starch Europe** is the trade association which represents the interests of the EU starch industry both at European and international level. Its membership comprises 24 EU starch producing companies, together representing more than 95% of the EU starch industry, and in associate membership, 7 national starch industry associations. Before October 2014 Starch Europe was called the AAF.

The **European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV)** represents national federations of livestock traders, meat industry, and meat traders. Through its 52 national member federations, UECBV is the voice for some 20,000 trading and industrial companies.