



Press Release

22.07.10

COGECA AND COCERAL WELCOME ADOPTION OF EU GUIDE OF GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES FOR CEREALS, OILSEEDS AND PROTEIN CROPS

COGECA and COCERAL welcomed today the adoption by the EU Commission and Member States of The European Good Hygiene Practices Guide for the collection, storage, trading and transport of cereals, oilseeds and protein crops (co-products included) destined for human as well as animal consumption.

The move follows an official Member State consultation process, under the umbrella of the Hygiene Package (Regulations N. 183/2005/CE and N.852/2004/CE).

Mr. PESONEN, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca stated "It has been developed not simply to ensure that all operators respect European legislation, but in response to the high standards of food and feed safety demanded by European consumers. Following its publication in the Official Journal, the Guide will serve as a reference for all operators of the European market and the European control authorities".

Ms. BABUSCIO, Secretary General of COCERAL said "The European organisations COCERAL and COGECA represent the main operators in the grain trade. With more than 300 million tons of collected raw material, from EU farmers or imported from third-countries, the recognition of this guide represents a real move towards harmonising hygiene practice across the different Member States".

COCERAL and COGECA are also committed to keep updating the Guide so that it can evolve and be adapted to new food and feed safety requirements as well as to new risk-management methods, in collaboration with the food and feed chain partners and Member States.

COCERAL is the voice of the European cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply trade. Its members are the national trade organisations of most of the EU-27 Member States, who represent agri-supply distributors, collectors, exporters, importers and agri-bulk storers of the above mentioned commodities. The members are composed of essentially private traders and in some countries also farmers' cooperatives. Furthermore, Coceral has associate members in Switzerland.

COGECA is the united voice of agri-cooperatives in the EU. COGECA represents the interests of 38,000 farmers' cooperatives employing some 660,000 people and with a global annual turnover in excess of 300 billion euros throughout the enlarged EU. COGECA aim to ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative, strong and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.