



European Association representing the trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs,
oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply
Comité du commerce des céréales, aliments du bétail,
oléagineux, huile d'olive, huiles et graisses et agrofournitures

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Press Release

COCERAL calls for an ambitious TTIP trade facilitation agenda that prioritises regulatory cooperation in agriculture

In light of the stocktaking meeting on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) of 17-18 February 2014, COCERAL calls on the European negotiators to continue pursuing an ambitious trade facilitation agenda with the US. **The TTIP needs to prioritise the establishment of a long-lasting regulatory cooperation platform to address non-tariff barriers to trade in agricultural goods, which are today mostly linked to diverging legislation for sanitary and phytosanitary risk management and technical barriers to trade.**

The main technical barrier to trade today is the asynchronous pace of biotechnology approval for crop cultivation – rapid, in the US – and approval for crop import and processing in the EU – subject to lengthy procedures. This affects imports of US corn and soybean that are needed to satisfy the 70%-rate of EU import dependence for vegetable proteins. Differences in plant protection products residue levels represent another technical barrier to trade.

Paul della Tolla, COCERAL President, stated: *“Regulatory gaps between the EU and US restrict trade because they create legal compliance issues with severe impacts on grains and oilseeds traders. There is no food or feed safety at stake, yet the supply of raw materials is jeopardised and the competitiveness of the EU feed and food industries is compromised. A clear commitment to greater regulatory cooperation in agriculture is the way to narrow the gap between existing legislative discrepancies and to harmonise future policies for EU-US trade facilitation. This is the signal that we expect from the TTIP stocktaking meeting of 17-18 February.”*

The USA is one of the main EU partners for the supply of agricultural raw materials destined to the EU food and feed industries. Imports of cereals, oilseeds and their derived products are alone worth **€2.7 billion per year** (Eurostat) and are necessary to sustain food and feed industries in the European Union.

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Contacts:

Teresa Babuscio

Secretary General

0032.2.502.08.08

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 an associated member in Switzerland.