



## Press Release

### **TOGETHER WITH EU FOOD AND FEED CHAIN, COPA-COGECA URGES EU COMMISSION NOT TO DELAY AUTHORISATION OF NEW VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED GRAIN, OTHERWISE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY THREATENED**

**Brussels, 17 October 2014**

Copa-Cogeca, Coceral, Fediol, Fefac, Uecbv and A.v.e.c., urged the EU Barroso Commission today not to delay authorization of 8 new varieties of genetically modified grain <sup>(1)</sup> for import, food and feed processing which have scientifically proved to be safe, to avoid a further threat to the EU food and feed supply and market balance, warning they are especially essential for the livestock industry.

Any further delays by the EU Commission will result in a suicidal situation for European growth and will leave the EU food and feed business operators exposed to a possible risk of disruptions in the vital supply of soybeans, maize and various protein-rich products derived thereof. Regardless of whether they are genetically modified or not, consignments of grain imported to the EU could be halted at the borders if the authorization process is postponed. This will trigger further uncertainty about market balance, supply chain disruptions and price hikes for basic food products and major feed ingredients as well as undermine the competitiveness of the EU food, feed and livestock sectors.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General warned “If the outgoing Commission postpones authorization of these crops, it could cause uncertainty about feed supplies in the EU. Livestock farmers are already suffering from trade bans, particularly the Russian embargo. We cannot jeopardise their livelihoods by adding uncertainty about the market stability for feedstuff. Supplies are critical to the EU livestock industry and there are real dangers that the livestock industry will be drastically damaged due to a lack of raw material supplies. Overall, the EU is 78% dependent on imported vegetable proteins necessary also for the animal welfare. The EU livestock industry could consequently face a massive loss of competitiveness, unless the process for import approvals for new GM varieties continues. Moreover, Copa-Cogeca has just confirmed a bumper EU cereals harvest this year up 6.1% on last year levels which needs to be exported. This will only be possible if traders are not reluctant to come to the EU”

“Hesitations about new GM products may really bite economically, which is particular serious in the current economic crisis, and markets will be de-stabilised”, he concluded.

#### **Footnote:**

- (1) Maize MON 87460, Rapeseed GT 73, Soybean 305423, Soybean MON87708, Soybean MON87705, Soybean BPS-CV127-9, Maize T25 and Cotton T304-40

**END**

**Copa-Cogeca** is the united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the EU. Overall membership of both organisations has risen to 76. Copa represents 15 million people working either full or part-time on EU farm holdings whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 40,000 farmers' cooperatives employing some 660,000 people and with a global annual turnover in excess of 300 billion euro throughout the enlarged EU. Copa-Cogeca aim to ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative, strong and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe.

**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 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. 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 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 European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV)** represents national federations of livestock traders, meat industry, and meat traders. Through its 55 national member federations, UECBV is the voice for some 20,000 commercial and industrial companies.

**A.v.e.c.** is the association of poultry processors and poultry trade in the EU-28 countries. The members of a.v.e.c. are national organisations representing companies in 16 EU countries that are processing and trading the meat of the different poultry species as chicken, turkey, duck and goose. Their share is more than 90% of the total EU poultry meat production of 13 million tons. The sector employs more than 300.000 citizens and the total value of production is estimated at 32 billion Euros.