



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 is critical over restrictive measures on wheat exports introduced by Russia and calls the EU institutions for action

From the 1st of February Russia is imposing an export duty of 15 per cent + 7.5 EUR/ton on wheat. Export of all grains has slowed down in January 2015 compared to previous months of 2014 due to the extraordinary administrative procedures required in the Russian ports. The introduction of an export duty will now further limit the capacity to export wheat from Russia. COCERAL stands against these trade-distorting measures and calls the EU institutions for a firm action.

COCERAL President Mr Paul della Tolla commented: "The EU institutions should not drop the guard in respect to these restrictive trade measures unilaterally introduced by Russia. They can have a significant effect on global wheat prices and availability. The EU must be firm in condemning this type of measures and engage in discussions with Russian authorities to ensure that the export duty is not prolonged further and definitely avoided in the future".

While wheat export duty can be seen as an effort of the Russian government to curb the rising wheat prices on the domestic market, and while for the moment the current market situation (sufficient wheat stocks worldwide and positive outlooks in US and South-America) can absorb the lower than estimated Russian wheat exports, this should not distract from the overall negative consequences of this measure.

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Contacts

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Background:

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 [Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, 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 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. COCERAL has two associated members in Switzerland and Serbia.