



Brussels, 25th of September 2015

Press Release

Gafta re-joins COCERAL ***Grain trade speaking with one single voice in the EU***

COCERAL and Gafta are delighted to announce that following COCERAL's Board meeting on the 24th September, Gafta's application to re-join COCERAL was accepted. This decision, that is subject to formal ratification at the COCERAL AGM in May next year, was prompted by Gafta's strategic review of its policy work.

Jaine Chisholm Caunt, Director General of Gafta commented, "I am delighted that Gafta is going to re-join COCERAL. Gafta will focus its policy work more closely on international issues, including working through partnerships such as the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and International Agri-Food Network (IAFN). As part of this re-focus, we are closing our office in Geneva, and plan to open an office in Singapore next year, to increase Gafta's support for members across the South East Asia region. Gafta's Head of Policy, June Arnold, will move to a home-based role, and will focus on the international issues affecting the grain trade and supporting the work of Gafta's trade committees. June was also appointed as the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) representative to the Advisory Group of the Committee on World Food Security, this year, and along with myself as IAFN's current chair, will attend FAO meetings in Rome next month."

Mrs. Chisholm Caunt continued, "As a member of COCERAL, Gafta members will have excellent representation and support on EU policy issues, and we look forward to working with COCERAL to speak with one single and a strong voice for the trade sector in the EU. Gafta will also be able to support COCERAL's lobbying activities in Brussels by providing the views of its non-European members on the impact of EU policy issues affecting them."

COCERAL's Secretary General, Dr Teresa Babuscio, commented "I am enthusiastic, on behalf of COCERAL members, to welcome GAFTA back to COCERAL, after years of dialogue and efforts aimed at the mutual understanding and respective roles. The two associations will work under a renewed and refreshed mandate, with a function which is complementary to each other and for the benefit of the trade community they both serve. Most importantly, the trading sector will be speaking with one single voice towards the European institutions" she concluded.

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Notes to the editor

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.

Gafta is an international trade association representing over 1510 members in 89 countries, who trade in agricultural commodities and general produce. Membership includes traders, brokers, superintendents, fumigators, analysts and arbitrators, as well as professional services. Gafta member services include designing and maintaining standard forms of contract, running an international arbitration service, and providing a trade policy service, and a trade assurance scheme, as well as organizing networking events and training courses across the world.