

17COMM06

COCERAL and UNISTOCK call for a positive approach to future EU-UK relations

COCERAL and UNISTOCK expect a balanced Exit-Agreement that will safeguard operations across the Channel

Brussels, 29 March 2017 – Following the official Article 50 notification to the European Council by the UK Government, the formal UK Exit negotiations are expected to pending the Council Guidelines.

The UK plays an important role for the agri-business sector with agricultural production, trade and processing supply chains highly integrated with the rest of Europe. The maintenance and strengthening of the Single Market is therefore fundamental for the EU traders and operators.

COCERAL and UNISTOCK expect the negotiations to be carried out and concluded in a positive manner; resulting in a balanced agreement which would not jeopardize established and future trade and business relations across the Channel.

COCERAL President Jaana Kleinschmidt stated: “We look to the Council and EU negotiators to ensure adequate access for the UK to the EU Single Market and vice versa, including the prevention of tariffs, indirect taxes or regulatory barriers that could affect the trade and existing good business practices.”

Businesses wish to see the European Union and the United Kingdom maintain common customs practices and clearance procedures. “We ask the Council and Exit Negotiators to take the necessary precautions to safeguard existing integrated supply chains between the UK and rest of Europe” Gilles Kindelberger, UNISTOCK President, concluded.

The guidelines for the exit negotiations as well as on the agreement and arrangements for the UK’s withdrawal and post-exit EU are of utmost importance to COCERAL and UNISTOCK members.

To provide an in-depth analysis to the EU Negotiators as well as to prepare the trade sector for the post-Brexit regulatory environment, COCERAL has established a Taskforce of Experts. The newly established Taskforce will be assessing the market and regulatory developments, and will be delivering policy recommendation along the process.

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For enquiries, please contact:

Teresa Babuscio
Secretary General
Tel. +32.2.502.08.08

COCERAL is the European association of trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply. 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 21 national associations in 15 countries and 1 European association [UNISTOCK]. With about 3500 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 1 associated member in Switzerland and 2 European Associations (EUROMALT and EUROMAISIER). Gafta is an extraordinary member of COCERAL.

UNISTOCK Europe is the only European association of professional storekeepers for agribulk commodities in the European Union. UNISTOCK Europe full members are present in 11 countries. With a total of approximately 79 port silos facilities UNISTOCK Europe proactively represents the united voice for the agri-bulk storage sector towards the EU authorities. UNISTOCK Europe is a full member of COCERAL.