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Press Release

Ahead of EU talks, COCERAL, Copa and Cogeca step up action to call for herbicide active substance glyphosate to be re-authorised for fifteen years after EFSA gave positive assessment

-#farmers4glyphosate

Ahead of talks next week, COCERAL, Copa and Cogeca call on Member States to re-authorise the use of the widely used weed killer glyphosate for fifteen years after the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)-gave it a positive assessment

Copa and Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen stressed "We have strong scientific evidence from both EFSA and ECHA to support the re-authorization of this widely-used active substance for 15 years as there are no safety concerns. Its use is also essential together with catch crops to prevent soil erosion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It puts our own farmers in a less competitive and uncertain position vis a vis their competitors in non-EU countries".

COCERAL Secretary-General Teresa Babuscio said "Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the EU and worldwide, enabling farmers to produce safe, affordable, quality food. We urge Member States and the European Commission to re-authorise for the full fifteen years as set out in EU legislation".

The statement comes as the EU readies itself to discuss it on October 5-6.

Note to the Editor:

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 EUROMAISIERS). Gafta is an extraordinary member of COCERAL.

Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 23 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 66 member organisations from the EU member states. Together, they are one of the biggest and most active lobbying organisations in Brussels.

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