



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

18COMM07

## **COCERAL calls to oppose safeguard measures on imports of Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar**

Brussels, 23 November 2018 – Following the publication of the findings of the safeguard investigation on imports of Indica rice originating in Cambodia and Myanmar, COCERAL deeply regrets the report's conclusion to temporarily reintroduce the customs tariffs on imports of Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar.

*“After close evaluation of the report, it appears that it does not give a complete overview of the rice trade market, and as a result its conclusions are flawed”,* says Iliana Axiotiades, COCERAL Secretary General.

The safeguard investigation focuses on products under the CN codes 1006 30 27, 1006 30 48, 1006 30 67 and 1006 30 98, considered as covering semi-milled or milled Indica rice. However, as the CN codes do not distinguish between the Indica white rice and long grain fragrant rice at the 8-digit level, a blanket decision was taken, that does not reflect market realities.

In practice, Indica white rice and long grain fragrant rice do not compete against each other. They are of a different quality and are aiming at different markets in the EU. It is also worth noting that in the report produced by the Commission, the reported figures encompassing these two varieties indeed show an increase, but in reality, only fragrant rice imports have significantly risen in the last few years.

*“For this reason, COCERAL urges Member States to vote against the enforcement of the safeguard clause temporarily reintroducing the Customs Codes Tariff on imports of Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar during the GSP Committee on 4th December”,* adds Axiotiades.

Also of note that, in Cambodia and Myanmar, farmers and the milling industry have heavily invested in view of supplying the EU market, and are today dependent on exports to the EU. Any change in trade flows will impact the livelihood of many citizens in these two developing countries, which are amongst the poorest in the world.

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**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.