



Joint statement

EU Commission decision concerning vital food and feed import urgently needed to secure food and feed supply to the EU

Brussels, 29 August 2014

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC call on the European Commission to urgently, by September 2014, take a Decision on the EU authorization of eight GM products ⁽¹⁾ for import, food and feed processing to avoid further threat to the EU supply of soybeans, maize, rapeseed and various protein-rich products derived thereof.

The EU depends for 75% of its needs for protein-rich ingredients for feeding purpose on the global world markets. Europe consumes yearly around 414 million tons of cereal grains, oilseed and derived products, catering for food, feed and industrial needs: 339 million tons of these agricultural products are produced in the EU and 75 million tons are imported from third countries.

In light of the EU dependency on imported agricultural products and vegetable proteins, Paul Della Tolla, COCERAL's President, warns: Any further delay - if not denial - by the EU Commission would result in an unavoidably suicidal situation for Europe which will lead to important disruptions to trade as well as serious legal uncertainty. Europe needs to adapt to the world which is rapidly globalizing and facing intensified external competition. The EU Commission, therefore, needs to act on this burden of "non-adjustment". As several of these GM products are currently being grown and harvested in the key exporting countries to the EU, it won't take long before their unavoidable presence starts being detected in traditional commercial channels, regardless of whether GM or non-GM agricultural products are traded."

Kevin Brassington, President of FEDIOL, comments on the current situation: "Without a guaranteed supply of imported soybeans from traders to oilseeds processors, approximately three million tons of EU-produced vegetable oils and 10 million tons of protein-rich meal, GM and non-GM alike, would no longer reach food and feed manufacturers and their customers. The financial consequences and liabilities of this scenario would jeopardize the economic viability of our industry."

Ruud Tijssens, FEFAC President, highlights: "The urgent need for the EU Commission to provide legal certainty for feed business operators regarding market access to vital raw materials supplies. EU feed manufactures and livestock producers rely on imports of more than 30 million tons of protein-rich feed materials annually, for which there is no viable alternative available on the European feed market. Any further delay in the GM import approval process could erode further the EU livestock sector's competitiveness."

The eight GM products have been deemed safe by the European Food Safety Authority (ESFA) and have reached the final stage of the risk management process. The decisions for the related EU import authorizations lay in the hands of the EU Commission: some of them have been awaited since the end of 2013.

Footnote:

(1) Maize MON 87460, Rapeseed GT 73, Soybean 305423, Soybean MON87708, Soybean MON87705, Soybean BPS-CV127-9, Maize T25 and Cotton T304-40

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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 **30 national associations in 19 countries** [Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, 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 **2700 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.

FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry association, represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meal producers, vegetable oils producers, refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL's members are **12 national associations and associated company members in 5 other EU countries**. With about **150 facilities in Europe** the sector provides **20.000 direct employments**. Its members process approximately **36 million tonnes of basic products a year**, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets. The sector processes notably rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybeans and linseed into oils and meals for food, feed, technical and energy uses essentially on the European market.

FEFAC is the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation. FEFAC represents **24 national Associations in 23 EU Member States** as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status, and is the only independent spokesman of the European Compound Feed Industry at the level of the European Institutions. The European compound feed industry employs over **110,000 persons** on app. **4,000 production sites** often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.