



Joint press release

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC welcome the rejection of the Parliament's ENVI Committee of the Commission's "opt-out" proposal

Brussels, 13 October 2015

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC, representing commodity collection and trade¹, oilseed crushing and compound feed manufacturing, welcome the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee's firm approach to reject the European Commission proposal to allow individual Member States to decide whether to permit or not the use of genetically modified food or feed and expect that the Plenary will exercise the same assertiveness in rejecting it.

ENVI's rejection is a loud and clear step towards avoiding that the Commission's proposal be adopted and is aligned with the opinion of the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) Committee, which likewise advocated for a rejection on grounds that the proposal stands to distort competition in the internal market and endanger EU food production sectors that rely heavily on imports of GM feed.

The Plenary of the Parliament is set to vote on the proposal on 28 October. Today's rejection will serve as a basis for the discussions at Plenary.

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¹ Trade includes collection, storage transport and trading operations.

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 [Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, 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 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. 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, 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.