



## Joint press release

### COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC release their Economic Impact Assessment of the European GM “opt-out” proposal

**Brussels, 20 October 2015**

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC, representing commodity collection and trade<sup>1</sup>, oilseed crushing and compound feed manufacturing, are delighted to announce the release of their Economic Impact Assessment of the Commission’s Genetically Modified (GM) “opt-out” proposal<sup>2</sup>.

The study assesses the potential implications for the feed and livestock sector in four EU Member States potentially opting out from GM authorisation (i.e., France, Germany, Hungary and Poland). It has been conducted on the basis of literature review coupled with industry and expert opinion from the three European sector organisations.

Nutritional and farming reasons dictate that not all soy in feed can be replaced by alternative protein sources. **The bulk of soy (currently, GM) in feed would therefore need to be substituted with non-GM soy with a premium**, set between EUR 44/t and EUR 176/t (i.e., 15% to 50% of the value of the product). The Economic Impact Assessment finds that substituting GM soy with non-GM soy would lead to an increase in feed costs of around 10% for the livestock sector, i.e. EUR 1.2 bln in the four potentially opting out countries or 2.8 bln for the EU livestock sector if all EU countries would opt out.

This would irremediably affect the competitive position of the livestock industry in these countries, both in their domestic markets and respective export destinations. The limited demand for non-GM fed animal products on the global market would prevent demand adaptation in case of supply reduction, which, coupled with the extra costs of non-GM supply chains, would inevitably lead to the **closure of livestock holdings in opting-out countries**. In the long-term, this loss of competitiveness would have negative repercussions on the supply chain from farm to manufacturing, putting jobs in EU rural areas at serious risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Trade includes collection, storage transport and trading operations.

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory, COM(2015) 177 final.

**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.