



Joint press release

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC relieved at European Parliament Plenary rejection of the Commission's GMO "opt-out" proposal

Brussels, 28 October 2015

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC, representing commodity collection and trade¹, oilseed crushing and compound feed & premix manufacturing, are relieved by today's decision of the Plenary of the European Parliament to reject the Commission's proposal which would grant Member States the right to ban the use of EU authorised genetically modified (GM) food or feed in their territories. COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC now urge the EU Farm Council to follow suit and equally reject the Commission's proposal in order to maintain the needed legal certainty for business operators in the EU feed and livestock sectors, which are already facing a very challenging market situation.

Today's rejection is in line with the opinion of the relevant Parliamentary Committees and echoes the concerns voiced by affected food and feed supply chain industry sectors. COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC recently issued an [Economic Impact Assessment](#) on the Commission's proposal, finding, inter alia, 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 if four EU countries opted-out or 2.8 bln in the event that all EU countries did so), making livestock production in "opting-out" countries uncompetitive vis-à-vis not only non "opting-out" countries but also third countries, whether on the home or global market.

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC consider that there is no alternative today but to ensure a correct implementation of the current GM food and feed system, respecting time limits prescribed by the legislation. In order to fully embrace the challenges related to the EU supply of the necessary commodities, it is essential that the understanding about the role of trade and GMOs be enhanced, for which, COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC jointly call for a dedicated, sound, debate tackling the outstanding technical, scientific and economic aspects of biotechnology and GMOs as requested by a number of Members of the European Parliament.

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Contacts:

Teresa Babuscio
Secretary General
COCERAL
Tel. +32.2.502.08.08

Nathalie Lecocq
Director General
FEDIOL
Tel:+32.2.771.53.30

Alexander Döring
Secretary General
FEFAC
Tel: +32.2.285.00.50

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.