



Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussel

Brussels, 9 June 2016

Ref. 34/2016

Dear President Juncker,

Three GM soya bean products¹ have been pending for the final stage of the EU authorization for import, food and feed uses and processing since the vote in the Appeal Committee on 11 January 2016, while this step regularly takes only one month. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) deemed the three GM products safe back in 2015.

The authorisation of these GM traits has now become critical to ensure the viability of food and feed supplies into the EU while providing the necessary legal certainty to business operators. COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC therefore ask the President of the EU Commission to finalise the authorisation procedure for these three events as a matter of urgency.

The European Union cannot afford to ignore the global dimension of commodities trading and supplies: some of these GM traits are already authorised and/or commercialised in key exporting regions to the EU. In particular, the import approval of MON87708 x MON89788 in China, coupled with the early planting season in producing countries is very close to causing severe trade disruptions should this GM soybean not be authorised in the EU before the summer break.

The EU relies on imports from third countries to cover 75% of its use of protein-rich ingredients for animal feeding purposes, of which soybean meal is the preferred source. In absence of a rapid final decision, EU traders may be forced to restrict vital imports of soy due to the increasing risk of finding traces of GM traits yet to be authorised in the EU, which would negatively affect supplies of both GM and non-GM, which in return will only further exacerbate the long-persisting market crisis in key EU livestock sectors, e.g. the dairy and pig meat sectors.

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC note that the EU Commission has failed over the preceding 5 months to provide the sound and scientifically justified reasons for the ongoing delay². This failure to either grant the authorisations or indeed provide the required evidence as to why the authorisations cannot be progressed prevents us from providing a reasoned and predictable outlook to our member companies and trading partners as to whether soy supplies will be available from North America in the autumn for the EU market.

¹ Genetically Modified Soybeans MON87705 x MON89788, MON87708 x MON89788 and FG72.

² In its recent decision, the Ombudsman indicated that the Commission had not “given any reasonable explanation for an average delay of 3.5 months” for this last step, qualifying such a practice as ‘maladministration’

We urge the Commission President to deal with this as a request of authorisation as a matter of urgency, while remaining available for any additional market and trade information the EU college of Commissioners may require,

Thanking you in advance for the consideration and looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours



Teresa Babuscio
Secretary General
COCERAL



Nathalie Lecocq
Director General
FEDIOL



Alexander Döring
Secretary General
FEFAC

CC:

Vice-President Timmermans, Vice-President Katainen, Commissioner Malmström, Commissioner Andriukaitis, Commissioner Hogan, Commissioner Bieńkowska, Commissioner Moedas
Ms Nathalie Chaze, Mr Marco Valletta (Cabinet of Commissioner Andriukaitis)
Mr Xavier Prats Monné, Mr Ladislav Miko, Ms Sabine Juelicher, Ms Chantal Bruetschy, Ms Sabine Pelsser (DG SANTE); Mr. Jean Luc Demarty (DG TRADE)

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. **COCERAL's** full members are 26 national associations in 18 countries and 1 European association [Unistock]. With about 3500 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 and one extraordinary member Gafta.

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oils and protein meal industry. With over 150 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 56 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets. Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and protein meals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses (pharmaceuticals, paints, detergents, biodiesel, etc.), protein meals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein.

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.