



FEFAC WELCOMES EU COMMISSION'S ENCOURAGEMENT FOR EU PLANT PROTEIN PRODUCTION

(18) CP 17

Brussels, 23 November 2018

FEFAC welcomes the European Commission report on the development of plant proteins in the EU published on 22 November 2018. FEFAC hopes the new political interest at both EU and national level will create the momentum to stimulate the availability, quality and competitiveness of EU plant protein production. Compound feed manufacturers are prepared to continue to source more EU grown proteins to participate in the development of economically viable chains, provided they are a feasible option compared to traditional protein sources. FEFAC stresses the importance of animal nutrition science and precision livestock feeding as key tools for making the most efficient use of available protein sources, for example by offering the best amino-acid profile to respond to physiological requirements of farm animals as well as reducing nitrogen emissions and nutrient leakage.

FEFAC President Nick Major [presented](#) the views and recommendations of compound feed manufacturers at the conference The Development of Plant Proteins in the European Union, held on 23 November 2018 in Vienna, Austria. He stated that “the ambition to stimulate EU protein crop production is very sensible given the reduced importance of the EU as an importer on the global market of soybean meal in combination with the dependency on very few exporting countries”.

Major also pointed to the report's finding that the development of premium feed/food markets will be the main driver for the market uptake of vegetable protein grown in Europe. In that light he encouraged the European Commission to harmonise the rules for product claims for food of animal origin fed on “non-GM feed” in order to guarantee a level playing field and increase market transparency. Major also reminded that it is unrealistic for the EU to become entirely self-sufficient for its protein needs, meaning facilitating the sourcing of responsibly produced protein-rich feed materials is also of great importance.

Notes to the editor:

1. FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 23 national Associations in 23 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 3,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.
2. Farm animals in the EU-28 consume an estimated 480 million tonnes of feed a year, of which about 30% are produced by the compound feed manufacturers. Turnover of the European compound feed industry is estimated at € 50 billion.
3. For more information see our web site (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu.