



(07) CP 8  
Brussels, 22 November 2007

***"It's already one minute past midnight":***

***The EU Farm Council must act on conclusions of the  
DG AGRI Report "Economic Impact of Unapproved GMOs on  
EU feed imports and livestock production"***

COCERAL, representing grain and feedstuffs traders and FEFAC, representing EU compound feed manufacturers, urge the EU Farm Council meeting on 26 November 2007 to take rapid action to prevent irreversible damage to the EU livestock and feed industry leading to a major disruption in the feed and food chain as set out in the third scenario of the DG AGRI report<sup>1</sup> (e.g. none of the three most important EU suppliers of soybean (Argentina, Brazil and the USA) can guarantee absence of GM soya not yet authorised in the EU), which is regarded by Commissioner Fischer Boel as the most realistic scenario.

COCERAL and FEFAC therefore welcome the initiative of the Portuguese Council Presidency to hold an open debate on the impact of the EU GM policy on feed and food security and will support any practical, realistic solution, which could allow the EU to secure essential supply of grain and oilseeds, in particular soya, for both food and animal feed in the EU. Such a solution is already urgent in order to resume to normal trading patterns with maize-based feed materials at a time when the EU needs to import more than 10 Mio tons of cereals to meet its requirements. A failure to do so does mean that the EU consumer will ultimately have to buy meat and livestock products from third countries produced from GM feeds not approved in the EU, as EU livestock production will collapse due to unavailability of imported feedingstuffs.

**Mr Jean Michel Aspar, COCERAL President**, states that EU Farm Ministers must take notice of the market reality of exponential growth of world-wide acreage of GM crops currently reaching 100 Mio hectares in 22 countries, which makes feed and food grain exports to Europe without a tolerance for not yet EU-approved GM events impossible.

He noted that both the Brazilian and Argentinean Farm Ministers made the point very clear to the European Commission during recent visits that they would not be able to guarantee absence of non-EU approved GM events in grain and oilseeds exports to the EU, even for supplies which carry a "non-GM" certificate.

Mr Aspar warns Ministers that "the economic impact of even a temporary breakdown of supplies with soybean products to operators in the feed and food chain would be catastrophic. This danger is exacerbated by the high world demand for feed grains and oilseeds (mainly soybeans and soybeanmeal) especially in South-East Asia, which is overtaking Europe as the main buyer for feedingstuffs from Brazil and Argentina". He therefore calls on Farm Ministers to turn the political key to relieve pressure from EU livestock producers by approving GM crops for import and processing which have

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<sup>1</sup>see [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir/gmo/economic\\_impactGMOs\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir/gmo/economic_impactGMOs_en.pdf)

obtained a positive EFSA opinion and by setting a workable threshold for low-level presence of GM events which have been approved in export countries according to OECD standards.

**Mr Pedro Corrêa de Barros, FEFAC President**, stresses that the current de-facto import ban for corn gluten feed and Argentinean feed maize has already led to an extra-cost of 2 Bio € for EU-livestock producers. The EU's GM policy results in an artificial feed and food price inflation, which could further affect the purchasing power of EU citizens. Until now, the bill has been paid by the EU livestock industry, in particular the EU pig industry whose viability is at stake, as pig producers are not able to recover the extra-feed costs from the market.

He said that "FEFAC is in favour of setting a workable threshold for low level presence in feed of GM events not yet approved in the EU. Such a threshold must be set at a level that is technically and economically practical. FEFAC and COCERAL put their expertise at the disposal of the EU decision makers to that end".

"This threshold is a prerequisite to maintain a viable supply of products of animal origin to EU consumers, regardless of the GM or "non-GM" status of feed supplies to livestock farmers".

Annex: [Reference and Key Message Document](#)

#### Notes to the editor:

**COCERAL** is the acronym for "Comité du commerce des céréales, aliments du bétail, oléagineux, huile d'olive, huiles et graisses et agrofournitures" and is considered as the voice representing the European cereals, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply trade". The Members of COCERAL are the national trade organisations of most of the EU-27 Member States, who for their part represent collectors, distributors, exporters, importers and agribulk storers of the above mentioned commodities. The members are composed of essentially private traders and in some countries also farmers' cooperatives. For more information see COCERAL web site ([www.coceral.com](http://www.coceral.com)) or please contact Chantal Fauth, Secretary General Tel.: + 32.2.502.08.08, e-mail: [secretariat@coceral.com](mailto:secretariat@coceral.com)

**FEFAC** (Fédération Européenne des Fabricants d'Aliments Composés), the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 21 national Associations in 20 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 4,000 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities. For more information, see the FEFAC web site ([www.fefac.eu](http://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](mailto:fefac@fefac.eu)

The EU imports 35 million tonnes of soybean meal annually, or app.75% of its vegetable protein requirements, with no viable alternative available. Feed costs account for 60-80% of the production cost of pig and poultry.

DG AGRI published last summer a study concluding for the poultry sector that the impact of asynchronous authorisation of GM soya events under the worst case scenario would be severe, as poultry production would fall to 29% and 44% below the baseline level in 2009 and 2010 respectively. A sharp increase in the EU price would attract high imports and EU exports would disappear. EU consumption would drop to 16% and 26% below the baseline level in 2009 and 2010 respectively.