



Mr Juncker,
Président de la Commission Européenne,
200 Rue de la Loi,
Brussels 1040,
Belgique

6th June 2016

Subject: EU approval of pending GM products for import, food and feed processing

Dear Mr Juncker,

GAFTA is the association representing the international grain and feed trade, established in 1876. Our membership comprises over 1600 member companies in more than 90 different countries worldwide. The timely approval of GM traits within the EU system is of utmost importance to our members so they have legal certainty importing food and feed into the EU and at the same time ensuring the viability of food and feed supplies to a key market.

We have previously written to Commissioner Andriukaitis at the end of March expressing our concern that three GMO soyabean traits (MON87705xMON89788, MON87708xMON89788 and FG72) which have received a favourable EFSA scientific opinion and a no opinion result in the Standing and Appeals Committee. In a response from DG Santé, Mr Andriukaitis assured us that the draft authorising decisions were on 15th April at the final stages of the procedure (pending approval since 11th January 2016).

As these 3 GMO traits are already approved in key export markets, the international trade is extremely concerned with the harvest fast approaching and concerned with legal uncertainty for operators who will be faced with adventitious presence of such GM events due to the nature of trading in bulk commodities. In the absence of a decision, agri commodity traders may be forced to restrict vital protein imports into the EU and the consequences have been highlighted widely by the trade.

As a decision is now in the hands of the Commission, we would like to underline the importance of taking such a decision urgently to support the needs of the food and feed industries in Europe and to give much needed legal certainty to both exporters and importers.

Gafta members are now elevating this request to you as, President of the European Commission, to ask your assistance in seeking a final decision to mitigate against potential trade disruption following upcoming harvest.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaine Chisholm Caunt".

Jaine Chisholm Caunt
Director General

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The Grain and Feed Trade Association

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