Subject: Proposal for a mechanism to protect sugar, cereals/oilseeds, poultry meat and eggs farmers/producers from severe market disturbance linked to imports from Ukraine + request for a meeting

Dear Commissioner,

Our five associations representing farmers and producers from the sugar, cereals/oilseeds, poultry meat and eggs sectors would like to express strong concerns regarding the unlimited imports from Ukraine, and to suggest possible solutions for the future.

Before going into further details, it is important for us to emphasize that our producers stand firmly behind the Ukrainian people and fully support the measures aimed at helping Ukrainian citizens to cope with the consequences of this terrible war.

While we support the need for collective EU action to support Ukraine, we believe it is unfair and untenable that our sectors should have to bear the weight of this support alone. If action is not taken in the near future, the survival of our sectors is at stake.

Since the introduction of the Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) mechanism with Ukraine, our sectors face similar problems:

- Volumes that used to be exported from Ukraine to third countries are now almost exclusively supplied to the EU, causing significant damages to our EU markets
- These imports reach the EU with lower SPS standards (in terms of pesticide use, animal welfare, use of antimicrobials, etc.) and make our producers even more vulnerable to this unfair competition
- Border controls are inadequate and we suspect that some imports enter the EU without being declared, so that the quantities registered are lower than those actually imported
- These imports mostly benefit very large structures and a small number of people, which raises the question of the efficiency of this support for Ukrainian citizens

Even though the ATMs has been extended for 2023, it is clear that the Commission cannot maintain the status quo and must look for alternative ways to protect EU producers in the most affected sectors while continuing to support Ukraine.

We therefore call for the following measures:

- Continue international efforts to facilitate the flow of goods from the Black Sea ports so that they once again become the main export channel.
- Drive investments to improve logistics and infrastructure to enable the Solidarity Lanes to function properly and increase their number so that goods can flow easily to where they are needed.

- Ensure that the products entering the internal market comply with the required phytosanitary standards, animal welfares standards and use of antimicrobials by reinforcing border controls.

- Create a system making sure that the destination for all consignments of Ukrainian agricultural products is determined prior to entry into the EU.

- Introduce a system to guarantee that the Ukrainian products reach this destination determined prior entry in the EU and do not end up elsewhere, for example through the use of a deposit system.

- Introduction of import thresholds for any agricultural commodity subject to trade liberalisation based on the yearly average for the combined years 2021 and 2022. Any products imported above this threshold should be required to be exported outside the EU, and thus for transit only inside the EU market. The measurement of quantities would be based on DG TAXUD’s surveillance system.

We believe that this mechanism is a constructive way forward to maintain trade flows, protect EU producers, help Ukrainian producers to diversify their exports and limit their dependency to the EU market.

We are confident that you will pay due attention to our proposal and hope that we could discuss it with you during a meeting. We stand ready to work with your different services to facilitate a successful solution that will preserve our producers’ interests and that will ensure sufficient support to Ukrainian citizens.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the following associations:

- **AVEC** – Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU countries
- **CEPM** – European Confederation of Maize Production
- **CIBE** – International Confederation of European Beet Growers
- **Copa-Cogeca** - the united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union
- **EUWEP** – European Union of Wholesale with Eggs, Egg Products, Poultry and Game
CC:

-Mr. Luis Carazo Jimenez (Acting Director - DG AGRI – AGRI G - International)
-Art.4.1(b) - privacy AGRI E3 – Animal Products
-Art.4.1(b) - privacy E4 -Arable Crops and Olive Oil)
-Mr. Arkadiusz Langer (Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Wojciechowski)
-Mr. Pierre Bascou (Director for Directorate E - DG AGRI)