Minutes Meeting CEPM European confederation of maize production and AETMD European Sweetcorn processors association 6/5/2015

The associations illustrated the difference between sweetcorn and maize, with reference to both cultivation and processing.

With reference to the CAP, sweetcorn is a special case, for being classified as cereals likewise maize although it is a different product than maize they would prefer to classify it as vegetable hence make it eligible for F&V support. No Voluntary Coupled Support was dedicated to sweetcorn by MS.

The stakeholders referred in particular to TTIP: canned sweetcorn of Heading 2005 was indicated as the most sensitive product in the sector, as opposite to frozen sweetcorn.

The US competition is a concern to the EU considering the bigger export capacity of the US than the EU, the Farm Bill support, the fact that overseas transportation is often cheaper than transporting the same good from one EU country to another, the difference in energy cost (although energy accounts for about 7% of the transformation process). CEPM added that Atrazyn, the cheapest herbicide that can be used in sweetcorn, is allowed in the US but not in the EU and that in the US fertilisers are generally cheaper than in the EU, because their cost is mainly driven by energy cost.

With reference to Russia, only frozen sweetcorn was subject to the ban and it did not compromise total exports that remained stable.

CEPM and AETMD developed a full impact assessment of TTIP with reference to sweetcorn including both scenarios of full liberalisation for sweetcorn and tariff rate quotas based on the example of CETA and they will share it in due course with DG TRADE

The Commission took note of the position expressed by the sector.

Participants

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