Flash report: Meeting with CEOs/Heads of sector of European seed companies (17 February 2020)

Participants:
TRADE: T. Tynan (CAB-HOGAN); EU seed companies: Bayer; [Art. 4.1(b)] (Bayer); [Art. 4.1(b)] (KWS); [Art. 4.1(b)] (Liagrain); [Art. 4.1(b)] (Corteva)

EU seed companies confirmed their commitment to foster sustainable use of pesticides and crop protection innovations, and called for putting in place better price mechanisms for carbon sequestration and storage activities. EU-level systems of certification of sustainable crop rotation and protection could also be explored. The EU should capitalise on the opportunities offered by new breeding techniques (NBTs), which can strongly contribute to environmental and climate objectives, in the hope that the EU will decide to separate them from the GMO regulatory framework. They also recognised the importance of better communicating and explaining the benefits of these new techniques. Questions were raised on the Green Deal implications for imported products, i.e. whether they will also have to respect European environmental standards.

COM invited to participate in the current debate around new genomic techniques, which will feed into a Commission study and potentially result in legislative proposals.

COM also underlined that, while all imported products have already to meet the relevant EU product standards, the EU’s ambition is to contribute to raising environmental standards globally, but this will be done in cooperation with trade partners and respecting the EU’s international commitments, including within the WTO.
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