

All redactions covered by Art. 4.1(b)



FoodDrinkEurope

Meeting date and place

Meeting held on 23/10/2019 12:30 in Director General Office

Participating organisation(s) & representative(s)

[REDACTED] -- FoodDrinkEurope (TRN: 75818824519 45) Participant,
[REDACTED] FoodDrinkEurope (TRN: 75818824519 45) Participant,
[REDACTED] -- FoodDrinkEurope (TRN: 75818824519 45) Participant,

Main issues discussed

Participants

DG TRADE: Sabine Weyand, Director General; [REDACTED] Unit D 3; [REDACTED], D 3;

FoodDrinkEurope: [REDACTED]

Key topics discussed

FoodDrinkEurope (FDE) underlined the crucial importance of agri-food exports for the association and its members which are around 99% SMEs, representing approx. 4.7 million direct employees (and many more indirect jobs). The association's members export to more than 200 countries worldwide, strongly contributing to a very significant trade surplus of the EU agri-food sector as a whole. International trade will remain a key driver for future growth of the EU agri-food sector, together with intense innovation (FDE stressed that the innovation cycle in the sector is very fast, with agrifood products on supermarket shelves on average being replaced every 5 years);

FDE explained that they have a very good and constructive relationship with the EU farming sector, in particular via the European association COPA-COGECA who represents European farmers and agri-cooperatives. The same applies to the European Dairy Association (EDA). Moreover, both FDE and EDA appreciate their excellent working relationship with both DG TRADE and DG AGRI which will be a good basis for continued good cooperation under the forthcoming new Commission.

This was followed by a frank and constructive exchange on key ongoing trade dossiers, notably: prospects for maintaining a functional WTO given the pending Appellate Body crisis; the continuing WTO reform debate with different aspects, e.g. continued reliance on SDT (Special and Differential Treatment) status by some bigger developing countries; strong uncertainties around UK/BREXIT and US trade policy under the current US Administration (destructive position vis-à-vis the WTO, Airbus WTO case cross-retaliation / possible "tariff carousel" including with regard to important EU agri-food exports); ongoing deliberations on the possible introduction of an EU "Carbon Border Tax/Measure"; how to enhance sustainability via FTAs while still ensuring a level playing field for EU agri-food producers and exporters.

Directorate or unit

TRADE DG

Internal participants

Ms WEYAND Sabine TRADE DG (sabine.weyand@ec.europa.eu) Participant,
[REDACTED] TRADE D/3 [REDACTED] Participant,
[REDACTED] TRADE D/3 [REDACTED] Participant, Notetaker,

Author(s) of minutes

[REDACTED]

Validator and validation date

[REDACTED] validated the minutes on 24/10/2019 17:24