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Report of a meeting with representatives of BUNGE, 15.09.2016, Brussels

Participants: CAB-Malmström: Cecile Billaux, DG Trade: [redacted]

BUNGE: Tommy Jensen, [redacted], [redacted]

The meeting has taken place at the request of BUNGE, to discuss the future of EU trade, particularly in relation to the food and agribusiness. BUNGE, as a global agribusiness and food company involved in the whole process of food production from field to shelf is supportive of improving the international trade environment.

BUNGE started by expressing their wholehearted gratitude for the very constructive and positive discussions they have been having during the past few years with various Commission services on Ukraine. This helped them to take the right business decisions that led to the recent inauguration in Ukraine of the most modern European oilseed processing factory, in the presence of the country's president.

They are particularly interested and are still assessing the situation in Turkey. Ms Billaux briefly informed about the ongoing preparatory work (impact assessment, to be followed by a request for a mandate from the Council) to modernise the current Customs Union with Turkey where agriculture will be a key area.

BUNGE strongly supports the TTIP negotiations and is concerned about the troublesome political declarations around that project.

Good exchange followed on how agri-food trade with Africa could be improved, Africa being "the future". Ms Billaux reported about recent developments in EPAs. BUNGE's main concerns are the lack of infrastructure and corruption in some of these countries. There are also some very promising countries where investment could be considered, such as Kenya which has a very well educated young population.

Mercosur is also particularly interesting for BUNGE where one of their interests is to abolish Differential Export Taxes. BUNGE is very active in promoting responsible/sustainable supply chain of agri commodities and as such, they are member of the Soy Moratorium. Brazil is particularly responsive to these concerns and engages in dialogue. Ms Billaux emphasised that issues such as deforestation should indeed be covered in the TSD chapter of the negotiations and our "modern" trade agreements cover a very broad range of issues.