Ref. Ares(2015)2446203 - 11/06/2015

Report of meeting with Farm Europe, 8 May 2015

Participants: Yves Madre, Farm Europe; Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General, [4.1(b)] HoU DG TRADE

Mr Yves Madre, founding member of the recently established think tank Farm Europe, has requested a meeting with Mr Demarty to present their new organisation.

Mr Madre highlighted that they consider Farm Europe as the first sectoral think tank dedicated to agriculture. They would like to work together with EU institutions and with MSs on policy developments, preferably already at an early stage. The overall plan is to develop concrete proposals that are based on detailed analyses putting competitiveness and sustainability in the centre of their policy lines.

Mr Madre informed about their membership, the way they plan to work on certain files, that includes working group meetings, preparation of reflection notes and recommendations. He also drew our attention to their recently launched internet site, farm-europe.eu.

A short discussion ensued during which Mr Madre shared Mr Demarty's assessment that external trade provides a good opportunity for the EU agri-food sector whose trade performance has been steadily increasing, particularly but not only in case of high value processed products. Mr Madre also believes that via improved trade conditions the sector should benefit from economic growth in third countries. Right promotion tools and tackling non-tariff barriers, including SPS were also touched upon.

Mr Madre has invited Mr Demarty to address their next meeting that will focus on TTIP.