

PRESS RELEASE

The EU Primary Food Processors (PFP) holds its 4th Forum to debate global markets and agricultural commodities supply in the European Union

Brussels, 14 November 2013 - The EU Primary Food Processors (PFP), the organisation representing the first-processing sectors held its 4th Forum in Brussels. The event focused on the evolution of global markets, and how they are impacting the sourcing of agricultural raw materials and the sectors' long-term competitiveness. The issue remains high on the agenda for EU decision-makers, with agreement on the CAP post 2020 now being followed by the EU/US negotiations and the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

In his keynote address, Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development at the European Commission, stressed important elements of the CAP political agreement that offer Member States' flexibility for directing coupled support towards certain productions and emphasized the efforts made by the Commission for enhancing transparency.

Vito Martielli - Analyst Grains and Oilseeds at Rabobank – made a compelling analysis of past, present and expected international supply and demand for agricultural commodities and their main drivers;

Wayne Jones – Head of the Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division at the OECD – examined the policy options to reduce extreme price volatility for agricultural commodities and expanded on the G20 initiated AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System) as a means to improve transparency on production and stock data on four main commodities: maize, wheat, rice and soybeans;

Marcel Combot – Chair of the Cocal Market Section – addressed challenges and opportunities for trade and their impact on EU supplies in agricultural raw materials, pointing to constraints with the pesticide approach, to zero tolerance for non-authorized GM events and to sustainability requirements.

Alain Brinon, President of PFP, stressed in his introductory speech that primary processors expect global markets to help balancing out their own markets if and when needed providing customers with the security of supply of safe, high quality products and to provide opportunities for the EU to export. The forum offered experts' view and provided a valuable platform for discussion on the global supply of agricultural commodities and highlighted the need for a long-term strategic vision from EU policy-makers.

Further information can be found on www.pfp-eu.org