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Joint Press Release

EU contingency planning for a no deal Brexit– Additional measures are needed to limit potential disruptions to the food chain

In a [joint letter](#) sent today to the Secretariat General of the European Commission, Copa and Cogeca, CELCAA and FoodDrinkEurope, on behalf of the entire EU agri-food chain, welcome the set of measures already taken as contingency plans for a no-deal Brexit by the European Commission. Representatives of the EU agri-food chain believe that some additional actions are still needed to mitigate the potential devastating impact that a no-deal Brexit could have on the European agri-food industry.

Copa and Cogeca, CELCAA and FoodDrinkEurope acknowledge that the Commission has proceeded swiftly with the introduction of its contingency planning, in particular given the continued uncertainty surrounding the ratification process of the Withdrawal Agreement on Brexit in the United Kingdom. The agri-food chain organisations also positively welcome the integration of some of the most pressing requests into the list of measures released by the Commission.

However, according to the letter's signatories, there are still several areas in which the Commission's proposals need to be clarified and improved to avoid any risk of significant disruption. Among other elements, the Agri-food chain representatives requested the possibility to foresee temporary facilitated procedures for EU agri-food products that would allow the goods to be cleared at the premises of the operator, the mutual recognition of SPS certification (food safety and phytosanitary) by the EU and the UK, as well as the preparation of tailor-made plan to support specific productions such as livestock.

The joint letter also calls for enhanced coordination and communication between sectorial representatives, Commission Directorates General, and national authorities, underlining that this will be necessary to avoid the dramatic economic consequences of a no-deal Brexit.

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For further information, please contact

Eleni Giannakaki
FoodDrinkEurope Senior Manager Public Relations
e.giannakaki@fooddrinkeurope.eu

François Guerin
Copa and Cogeca Senior Policy Advisor
Francois.Guerin@copa-cogeca.eu

Conor Mescall
FoodDrinkEurope Senior Manager Public Affairs
c.mescall@fooddrinkeurope.eu

Jean-Baptiste Boucher
Copa and Cogeca Communications Director
jean-baptiste.boucher@copa-cogeca.eu

Pascale Rouhier
CELCAA Secretary-General
p.rouhier@celcaa.eu
