

19/02/2025

## Dairy trade considerations on the Vision for Agriculture and Food

Eucolait acknowledges the publication today of the European Commission's highly anticipated communication on its Vision for Agriculture and Food. The broad objectives it sets for the next 15 years are easy to agree with: an attractive, competitive, resilient and sustainable agri-food system that operates within planetary boundaries, while fostering innovation and vibrant rural areas. We further welcome the emphasis placed on simplifying the regulatory framework, a promise that must now be translated into tangible actions.

Regarding the proposed policy responses, we appreciate the recognition of trade's crucial role in our food systems as well as Europe's responsibility in contributing to global food security. Eucolait concurs on the necessity of forging new partnerships, deepening existing ones and enhancing EU's agri-food economic diplomacy. Diversification of supply chains and trade flows remains vital.

However, we have concerns about the repeated emphasis on reciprocity, aligning production standards and the strong language around import controls. The EU's food safety and import regime is among the strictest in the world, making a further strengthening of import controls appear excessive. Similarly, while the EU can work to align production standards through negotiations, imposing all our standards on others would undermine the goal of deepening bilateral trade relationships with partner countries.

Eucolait supports the goal of enhancing resilience and strengthening the risk and crisis management toolbox. We are pleased to see the livestock sector recognised as a cornerstone of EU agriculture in this regard. Apart from exceptional measures, the market orientation of the CAP

should be maintained and further reinforced. Transparency is key for enabling operators to respond to market signals, though it is important to note that the dairy market is already highly transparent. Eucolait does not support additional regulations that would compel the disclosure of confidential pricing information or further intervene in the contractual relations within the dairy supply chain.

For a more detailed overview of our priorities for the EU's food strategy, please refer to [the paper we released in November](#).

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