

# Joint voting recommendation on TTIP amendments regarding sensitive agricultural products

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To: INTA Committee MEPs and policy advisors

Ahead of the consideration in INTA on 29 June of amendments tabled to the TTIP Report (A8-0175/2015), the European farmers and cooperatives association (**Copa-Cogeca**), the European renewable ethanol producers association (**ePURE**), the European Confederation of Maize Production (**CEPM**), the European Sweet Corn Processors Association (**AETMD**), the European starch producers association (**STARCH EUROPE**), and the European beet growers association (**CIBE**) call on you to **support amendment 46 (Part 1 and Part 2)**, for the following reasons:

- CETA is not a good point for reference regarding sensitive agricultural products, as many of the most sensitive products will see tariffs eliminated from day one. A similar outcome under TTIP would be detrimental to those EU agricultural sectors. Furthermore, CETA grants Canada origin quotas for starch products and sugar and high sugar content products with relaxed rules of origin. This allows Canada to incorporate in their transformed products starch or sugar from the world market and then export them into the EU inside the origin quota. This should be avoided in any bilateral trade agreement and especially in the case of an agreement with the US.
- The US provides much stronger market related support to its domestic maize farmers than the EU. As a result, the US starch, sweet corn and ethanol industry benefit from lower raw materials prices than their European counterparts.
- US energy prices, the second largest cost factor in starch and ethanol production, and a large cost factor in sweet corn industry are up to seven times lower due to a combination of factors linked to US export restrictions of natural gas and EU climate and environmental policies.
- The US has a much more supportive and reliable regulatory and policy framework for farmers, starch and ethanol producers. As a result, the US produces five times more maize, two and a half times as much starch, two times more sweet corn, and ten times more ethanol than the EU.
- Opening the EU market for US maize, US sweet corn and maize-based sectors, such as starch and ethanol under TTIP would not only have direct negative consequences for the relevant EU industries, but also for other European sectors, such as European sugar beet growers and sugar producers that rely for instance on a domestic ethanol industry as an important outlet for their products.

Our sectors support the process of the TTIP. However, the prospects for growth and jobs should be shared equally across the EU. Any future agreement should also ensure a level playing field for the sensitive sectors mentioned above. Maintaining tariffs is therefore essential in order to avoid negative impacts on Europe's rural areas that rely to a great extent on the continued success of the sectors we represent.

We would therefore like to count on **your support for amendment 46 (Part 1 and Part 2)** and remain available to answer any questions you might have and would like to thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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