

Brussels, 16 May 2025

**Joint statement ahead of EU-UK Summit on 19 May: EU agri-food stakeholders call for an SPS agreement and enhanced regulatory cooperation**

In anticipation of the upcoming EU-UK Summit on 19 May, EU agri-food chain organisations Copa-Cogeca - representing farmers and agri-cooperatives, CELCAA - representing traders, and FoodDrinkEurope - representing food and drink manufacturers, call on the EU and the UK to commit to negotiating a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and enhanced regulatory cooperation. This represents a practical step toward reducing post-Brexit trade frictions and strengthening our economic ties.

The EU and UK remain each other's most important trading partners for agri-food products. In 2024, EU exports to the UK reached €53.9 billion, accounting for 23% of total extra-EU agri-food exports, while imports reached €15.4 billion in 2024, representing 9% of total extra-EU agri-food imports.<sup>1</sup> These figures underscore the deep interdependence of our economies and the critical importance of minimising trade barriers.

An SPS agreement should aim to alleviate burdensome administrative procedures, reduce costs and delays at borders, and streamline the movements of agri-food products, while upholding the highest safety standards. This would enhance the efficiency of cross-border supply chains, provide much-needed certainty for businesses, particularly those operating just-in time models.

Additionally, we strongly advocate for a structured framework for regulatory cooperation on wider food law issues and legislative developments impacting trade in agri-food. This should include ongoing technical dialogue to help with minimising divergences, ensuring a stable and predictable trade environment.

This summit presents a valuable opportunity to signal a renewed commitment to collaboration, stability, and forward-looking solutions. We urge leaders to seize this moment for the benefit of businesses, consumers, and the broader economy.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, *Monitoring EU agri-food trade: developments in 2024* (link [here](#))