



“EU FEED PRICES MAY RISE DUE TO EU ZERO-TOLERANCE ON NOT YET AUTHORISED GM PLANTS” FEARS FEFAC PRESIDENT PEDRO CORREA DE BARROS

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Mr Pedro Correa de Barros, FEFAC President, warns livestock farmers that feed prices may increase significantly at very short notice due to the EU zero-tolerance policy for the presence of trace levels of not yet EU approved GM plants in imported feeds.

He referred to the potential total loss of important soya imports from the US following positive testing by German authorities of traces (dust in foreign material) of not yet EU approved GM maize in US soybeans and soybean meal. Of concern to the EU livestock industry is that it needs to source soybeans and soybean meal from the US at least until the next South American harvest in spring 2010.

Soya prices could rise by at least 20 €/t due to additional “risk premiums” for US origin and even significantly higher if the EU could no longer import from the US, due to the lack of alternative supplies from South America.

The EU is dependent for more than 80% on imports of vegetable proteins for which there are no substitution possibilities in the short term. EU imports of meat are all produced from animals which may legally be fed with not yet EU authorised GM plants.

In a letter to the EU Farm Council Presidency he stated that “at a time when most EU livestock producers were facing economic hardship, the EU opposition to provide a practical threshold for trace levels of not yet EU authorized GM plants in imported feed may drive EU livestock farmers and feed operators out of business”.

Mr Pedro Correa de Barros therefore called on EU Farm Ministers “to agree on urgent measures at the next EU Farm Council meeting on 13 July 2009 to prevent the export of the EU livestock industry”. He stressed that “it is the EU's foremost responsibility to ensure vital protein feed imports for livestock farmers and thus food security for EU citizens while maintaining an economically viable and sustainable livestock sector”.

Notes to the editor:

1. FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers’ Federation, represents 21 national Associations in 20 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 110,000 persons on app. 4,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.
2. Farm animals in the EU-27 consume an estimated 470 million tonnes of feed a year, of which 150 million tonnes are produced by the compound feed manufacturers. Turnover of the European compound feed industry was estimated at € 45 billion for 2008.
3. For more information see our web site (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu.