

September 29, 2014

Commissioner Joaquín Almunia
Member of the European Commission
BERL
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Belgium

Dear Commissioner,

The undersigned organizations, representing a broad section of the U.S. food and agricultural industries, ask your support for the authorization of eight new biotechnology products for import, food and feed processing in the European Union. All of these products (soy, maize, rapeseed, cotton) have received positive European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) scientific assessments and have reached the final stage of the EU's risk management process. It is now up to the European Commission to make a final decision on their authorization. It is our understanding that, after considerable and unnecessary delay, Commissioner Borg and President Barroso are considering putting the authorization of these products forward for a vote in the College of Commissioners in the coming weeks.

The time required for EU decisions on new biotech crops has only lengthened in recent years and no authorizations have been issued since November 2013. Several of the eight products have been before the European Commission since the end of 2013, and were submitted to EFSA more than five years ago. In addition, some of these products are already being grown in exporting countries under stewardship programs. Timely action now by the Commission to provide final authorization will ensure that there is no risk of disruption to the essential supply of feedstocks needed by the EU's livestock and feed industries. Any disruption would have a serious impact on the livestock and poultry industries and feed processors in Europe, who are 70 percent dependent on imports of protein. Consumers would also be impacted with higher prices.

We urge the European Commission to respect the EU's obligations under the WTO to make timely regulatory decisions on new biotechnology applications and ask that you support the authorization of the eight import dossiers at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers of America
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists
American Soybean Association
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Corn Refiners Association
National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Oilseeds Processors Association
North American Export Grain Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Grains Council
U.S. Soybean Export Council
U.S. Wheat Associates