

U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

September 26, 2014

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

Dear Commissioner Almunia,

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) is writing to urge the EU Commission to complete the regulatory process 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 take a final decision on their authorization.

USBCA is a broad-based group of organizations representing producer, commodity, grain handler, exporter, food and feed manufacturing, processing and other organizations that are dedicated to improving the environment for technology innovation and the market for U.S. crops produced through the use of biotechnology. We join the call from our colleagues in the E.U. food and feed industries who have been requesting the authorization of these products since before the summer break.

We urge the European Commission to respect the EU's obligations under the WTO to make timely regulatory decisions on new biotechnology applications. 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, which are 70 percent dependent on imports of protein, as well as to consumers in the form of higher prices.

On behalf of the undersigned USBCA members, we urge your support of the authorization of the eight import dossiers at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Seed Trade Association

American Soybean Association

Biotechnology Industry Organization

Corn Refiners Association

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Corn Growers Association

National Grain and Feed Association

National Oilseed Processors Association

North American Export Grain Association

U.S. Canola Association

U.S. Grains Council

U.S. Soybean Export Council