UECBV and UK Associations Joint Press Release on Signing of a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement between the European Union and United Kingdom

The European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV) and its UK member associations (BMPA, IMTA, NIMEA and SAMW) warmly welcome the EU–UK Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement as an important step towards strengthening trade relations and cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Since Brexit, businesses on both sides have faced significant challenges due to additional administrative requirements, complex certification procedures, increased border controls, and higher operational costs. These barriers have disrupted established trade flows, created uncertainty and reduced the efficiency and predictability of cross-border trade.

In particular, additional paperwork, longer delivery times and increased logistical costs have placed considerable pressure on businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. The resulting delays and administrative complexity have also affected supply chain efficiency, limiting commercial opportunities and making it more difficult for businesses to maintain established trading relationships.

The SPS Agreement offers an important opportunity to address these challenges and restore confidence in EU–UK trade. By reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, simplifying procedures and facilitating the movement of goods, the Agreement can help businesses operate more efficiently, reduce costs and improve the reliability of supply chains.

These improvements would benefit businesses and consumers on both sides. More predictable trading conditions can encourage investment, strengthen competitiveness, expand market opportunities and improve access to a wider range of products. At the same time, smoother trade flows can help reduce unnecessary delays and waste, while maintaining high standards of safety and consumer protection.

We encourage both parties to prioritise the swift and effective implementation of the Agreement, ensuring its provisions translate into practical improvements for businesses. Clear guidance, transparent procedures and continued dialogue with stakeholders will be essential to achieving its full potential.

UECBV and its UK member associations remain committed to constructive cooperation with the EU and UK authorities to support the successful implementation of the Agreement and promote a strong, predictable and mutually beneficial trading relationship.

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