

Leading industry associations call for policy support for innovation in the Agri-Food sector

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Agri-Food Chain Coalition presents how innovation can fuel a strong and competitive EU agri-food sector to Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan

The Agri-Food Chain Coalition (AFCC), representing 11 leading industry associations across the agri-food chain, today presented its joint declaration entitled: *"Food for Thought: a vision for unlocking the potential of agriculture and food industries in the EU"* to the Agriculture Commissioner, Phil Hogan. The event took place on the first day of the Food & Drink Week at the Universal Expo in Milan with the aim of showcasing the importance of science and innovation in the EU agri-food sector.

Commissioner Hogan, in his keynote address, said, *"Innovation is the key to sustainable food security; through innovation, we can improve resource-efficiency, adapt to climate change, improve food safety, diversity and quality while maintaining the competitiveness of the agri-food sector and creating more and better jobs in rural areas."*

Speaking on behalf of the AFCC, Alexander Döring, Chair of the AFCC and Secretary General of the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) said, *"The AFCC is pleased to see Commissioner Hogan's commitment to stimulate innovation in the agri-food chain, as a top priority. AFCC members insist on the need to reshape the EU policy framework by removing bottlenecks and providing new incentives to favour the development of a comprehensive innovation toolbox allowing EU Agri-food chain partners to become more productive in a sustainable way."*

Members of the AFCC called on the Commissioner to give serious consideration to the recommendations outlined in the joint declaration to help ensure that Europe's agri-food chain can continue to meet the ever changing needs of consumers, grow sustainably, innovate and create jobs. Specifically, the vision calls for: