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**Subject:** CLITRAVI STATEMENT ON A COHERENT AND OPEN TRADE POLICY

**Brussels, 25 June 2025**

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## **CLITRAVI STATEMENT ON A COHERENT AND OPEN TRADE POLICY**

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**CLITRAVI** is the European Association for the Meat Processing Industry. It represents 12.000 companies, mainly SMEs, employing 400.000 persons, with sales of over 80 billion. Most of these SMEs have operated for many generations in rural areas throughout Europe.

**TRADE** openness drives economic growth and job creation, with around 20% of the EU job places dependent on exports. It benefits consumers by increasing choices and attracts foreign investments, fostering growth and innovation in the EU. Additionally, diversification in sourcing and exports enhances resilience and our ability to weather and overcome crises.

As the voice of the European Meat Processing Industry, CLITRAVI urges the European Union to prioritize a strategic and coherent approach to its trade relations, particularly in light of escalating tensions with key global partners.

We call on the EU and to find a constructive resolution to the ongoing trade disputes with the United States. Avoiding the imposition of retaliatory tariffs must be a shared objective. Escalating trade tensions risk harming industries on both sides of the Atlantic, and a stable transatlantic relationship remains vital for the prosperity of European processors and the broader agri-food sector.

At the same time, the EU must act with prudence in its trade relations with China. As demonstrated by the recent increase in tariffs on Chinese lysine, unilateral trade actions can have significant unintended consequences on the European supply chain, undermining the competitiveness of European industries that depend on essential imports.

Rather than responding to trade disagreements with fragmented and reactive measures, the EU should conduct holistic due diligence, weighing all economic, diplomatic, and strategic impacts. A more coordinated and dialogue-driven approach is needed—one that reinforces international partnerships rather than alienating key stakeholders. Trade policy should not be reduced to isolated disputes, but anchored in a coherent and long-term strategy designed to minimize negative trade-offs.

In recent years, considerable EU political capital has been invested in complex and sensitive regulatory files—such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)—which have, at times, frustrated trade partners and hampered progress in negotiating reciprocal market access. To build trust and achieve mutual gains, trade negotiations must be matched by transparency, predictability, and consistency in implementation.

We are also concerned about the lack of coordination among the different Directorates-General involved in managing trade-related matters, including tariff rate quotas (TRQs), customs duties, sanitary certificates, and geographical indications (GIs). These inefficiencies contribute to uncertainty and pose concrete challenges to our sector.

CLITRAVI therefore urges the European Union to:

- De-escalate existing trade disputes with key partners;
- Reinforce its commitment to the multilateral trading system and the rules-based order under the World Trade Organization (WTO). Including that regulations must be based on science;
- Promote open and ambitious trade diplomacy with third countries;
- Ensure greater internal coherence across EU institutions when developing and implementing trade policy.

Only by fostering international cooperation and delivering a predictable and fair trade environment can the EU safeguard its economic interests and support a resilient European meat processing industry.



### **The voice of the European Meat Products Industry**

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**For better information on the livestock sector as a whole, please visit the EU Livestock Voice website! <http://www.MeatTheFacts.eu>**



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