

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 December 2022

Colombia anti-dumping duties on frozen fries: European exporters welcome WTO appeal body ruling

Arbitrators have ruled in favour of the EU in the World Trade Organization (WTO) appeal regarding Colombia's anti-dumping duties on frozen fries originating from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The final and binding award confirms that these anti-dumping duties breach WTO rules and improperly restrict access to the Colombian market. "The decision is a win for European producers whose exports to Colombia of well over €20 million were affected by the Colombian duties", stated the European Commission.

The arbitrators confirm that Colombia's anti-dumping investigation was flawed in several respects, including the calculation of the dumping margin and the injury analysis. EUPPA and its members have warned the relevant authorities about the detrimental impact of such measures for the sector. The Colombian-imposed duties that were set in November 2018, impact eighty-five percent (€19.3 million) of the frozen fries exported to Colombia from the three EU countries concerned. EUPPA is relieved that its call has been heard by the European Commission and WTO arbitrators.

"On behalf of the European potato processing companies exporting to Colombia, we sincerely thank the European Commission for its consistent and thorough efforts to ensure that the antidumping investigation is carried out in full compliance with WTO rules", said Nuria Moreno (EUPPA Secretary General). She continued: "This decision sends a strong signal to the EU's international trade partners and provides much needed stability to European exporters in times of uncertainty with major geopolitical and economic disturbances"

The European potato processing business in numbers:

- Europe is the source of **two thirds** of frozen potato exported worldwide.
- Potato processors employ **20.000 people** directly across Europe, and work with approx. **10.000 potato growers** supplying the (French fry) potato varieties to our industry.
- Annual turnover **€8 billion** a year.
- **Frozen fries** and potato specialties alone represented **74%** of the total extra-EU sales of processed potato products (€1.396 billion). This grew from €175 million in 2005 to €1,396 billion in 2021.
- Looking at Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany over the past 10 years (between 2011 and 2021):
 - Belgian extra-EU exports of frozen fries increased from €170.9 million to €696.6 million (from 19.1% to 37.0% of total BE extra-EU frozen fry exports).
 - Netherlands extra-EU exports increased from €196.8 million to €486.6 million (from 18.8% to 32.5% of total NL extra-EU frozen fry exports)
 - German exports were up from €21.2 million in 2011 to €67.8 million in 2021 (from 14.4% to 24.0% total DE extra-EU frozen fry exports).
- The sector is a **fast-growing export industry** thanks to the advantages of large scale agriculture, high yields of potato crop in Europe and large production facilities; an average of 12,3% export of frozen potato products (incl. fries) per year for the last ten years, with growth expected to remain above 10%.

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