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## **Eucolait position on the EU-Turkey trade relationship**

Eucolait warmly welcomes the news that the Commission is investigating the possibility of modernising the EU-Turkey customs union, which currently does not eliminate tariffs for agricultural products. We hope that this will ultimately lead to a further dismantling of tariffs and facilitation of trade in dairy products.

Turkey was the 24<sup>th</sup> largest export market for EU dairy products in 2015, with exports valued at approximately €172.2 million. Infant formula exports (which are duty free) formed a significant part of this (in the region of €86 million). Butter and cheese exports are also significant (worth €26.8 million and €20.3 million respectively).

Outside of some limited duty free tariff rate quotas, tariffs on imports of butter and cheese are currently prohibitively high (up to 180%). Given Turkey's proximity to the EU and its growing population, Eucolait considers that there is significant potential for the EU's dairy market share in Turkey to grow, provided that restrictive tariffs are reduced or eliminated.

There has been significant regulatory alignment between Turkey and the EU as a result of the Customs Union, as Turkey has aligned much of its food safety legislation to be in line with that of the EU. Eucolait appreciates in particular efforts made in recent years to facilitate trade with Turkey, most notably the introduction of the Turkish veterinary certificate for EU dairy products, (which provides for the EU as a single entity rather than twenty eight separate Member States and is virtually identical to the modal EU certificate in Regulation (EC) 605/2010).

Eucolait is happy to provide additional information as needed to support the ongoing consultation process. We look forward to seeing continued improvements in the trade relationship with Turkey.

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