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Eucolait calls for continued trade liberalisation with Ukraine

Eucolait regrets the expiry of the autonomous trade measures (ATMs) that have governed imports from Ukraine over the past three years. As of tomorrow, trade between Ukraine and the European Union will revert to the terms outlined in the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, as was the case prior to June 2022.

For the dairy sector, this change means the reintroduction of tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on certain products - most notably butter and milk powders - while others such as cheese and whey will continue to benefit from duty-free access. These quotas will now be administered on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with the implementing regulation published in the Official Journal this morning.

It is regrettable that a permanent solution providing for reciprocal tariff liberalisation has not yet been reached, despite the long-standing awareness of the ATMs' non-renewal. The duty- and quota-free access granted to Ukraine has offered substantial support to the Ukrainian dairy sector without negatively impacting EU-based businesses.

Eucolait firmly believes that Ukraine's gradual integration into the European single market should continue, to the benefit of all stakeholders. The reintroduction of quotas on dairy products serves no one's interest. This is why in September 2024, Eucolait called for an upgrade of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement as envisaged under Article 29.

We urge the European Commission and their Ukrainian counterparts to swiftly conclude a revised agreement that enables the free circulation of all dairy products.