

PRESS INFORMATION

BMLEH and GEFA in ambassadorial dialogue for liberalised trade in goods

Ambassadors' reception for the 11th GEFA Diplomats' Salon on 21 May 2025 in Berlin

On the occasion of the joint dialogue between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH) and the export industry represented by the German Export Association for Food and Agriproducts GEFA e.V. (GEFA) with more than 70 embassy representatives from Berlin's foreign embassies in the International Club of the Federal Foreign Office, Federal Minister Rainer said: "Our agricultural and food industry is far more than just an economic sector - it secures livelihoods on farms and in the food trade, keeps rural areas alive and thus creates prospects locally. Today, every third euro in the food industry is earned abroad, in agriculture it is every fourth. That is why we will market our high-quality products better through an export strategy, as agreed in the coalition agreement. The more diverse the export opportunities and the broader the importers are positioned, the more resilient the value chain as a whole will be - and the more robust our businesses will be."

On the occasion of this event, the members of GEFA spoke out in favour of further efforts to liberalise global trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs and pledged their support to the Federal Minister.

Hartmut Kretschmer, GEFA spokesperson, summarises the core demands of export-oriented companies in the sector: "As an export organisation, we advocate free trade and fair competition. Trade barriers and a spiral of punitive tariffs only produce losers. Integration into global supply chains and the free movement of goods for export industries worldwide, on the other hand, have positive effects for everyone involved."

With regard to the new head of the BMLEH, Jan-Bernd Stärk, GEFA's deputy spokesperson, added: "GEFA's representatives are grateful for the Federal Minister's prompt commitment and support. We have submitted our proposal for an integrated export strategy to the BMLEH, which combines the opening and maintenance of sales markets with export promotion. This gives us hope for the upcoming consultations."

The power of trade agreements

"Trade agreements reduce trade barriers, open up new markets and promote the diversification of trading partners. They thus strengthen resilience to geopolitical tensions and disruptions in supply chains. In this way, they can cushion the medium to long-term negative effects of a trade policy based on tariffs - for example on prosperity, economic strength and trade volumes," said Dr Janine Pelikan, Deputy Director of the Thünen Institute for Market Analysis, in her highly regarded keynote speech to the numerous embassy representatives in attendance. Using scientific models, she was able to demonstrate the positive economic effects for all participating countries. "In this context, the signing of the EU-Mercosur agreement sends a strong signal in favour of open markets and strategic partnerships that specifically promote international trade and economic stability."

GEFA is the comprehensive communication platform between politics and business. It sees itself as a central point of contact for all economic operators interested in food, beverages, agricultural raw materials or products from the intermediate input sector such as seeds and breeding animals from Germany. GEFA's tasks include, among other things, organising worldwide contacts for the companies involved.

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