

## **MINUTES OF THE BREXIT ARABLE GROUP MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER AT 21 ARLINGTON STREET, LONDON, SW1A 1RN**

### **Attendees:**

Alex Waugh (AW) (chair) - <b>nabim</b>	Michael Bellingham (MB) – PFMA
Catherine Barrett (CB) – AIC	Joe Brennan (JB) - <b>nabim</b>
Geraldine Albon (GA) - ACFM/BOBMA	Tori Morgan (TM) - NFU
Julian South (JS) - MAGB	Sarah Nightingale (SN) - GAFTA
Robin Manning (RM) - DEFRA	Amanda Lyons (AL) - DEFRA
Rit Chandra (RC) - DEFRA	Robin Middleton (RMt) - DEFRA
Christiana Millard (CM) - DEFRA	Rachel Millen (RMi) - DEFRA
William Reay (WR) - DEFRA	Jenny Rowntree (JR) - DEFRA
Gareth Evans (GE) - DIT	

### **Joined remotely:**

Cecilia Pryce (CP) - Openfield	Sol Tep (ST) - DIT
Darren Stretton (DS) - DEFRA	

### **Action Summary**

#### **1) MB to recirculate Health and Harmony responses document.**

### **Welcome and introduction**

AW opened the meeting at 14.00. The attendees were welcomed and introductions made.

#### **1) Matters arising**

#### **2) Transitioning existing trade agreements**

#### **3) No-deal planning**

- AW said it was understood that the Treasury were leaning toward not reciprocating EU tariffs. RM said that ministers had the information necessary to make a decision but this was caught up in withdrawal agreements and could not be finalised.
- SN said that customs procedures would be another significant no-deal issue for the sector. The Andersons Centre were carrying out a project looking at the cost of non-tariff barriers and how HMRC and the Border Force were equipped to deal with them. RM said he was happy to hold a detailed discussion on what would be needed for arable trade.
- TM outlined that NFU members had concerns over the supply of plant protection products (PPPs) from the EU. CB added that some farmers did not want to stockpile as there were issues relating to storage facilities and the potential for product degradation over winter.
- There were also concerns surrounding phytosanitary certificates and whether these would be required. RM said that if the government conceded a no-deal was the more likely outcome, more guidance would be issued on subjects like phytosanitary certificates.
- There had been reports in the South East and East that contracts for malting barley were not available. CP said uncertainty over access to barley TRQs was impacting contracts.

- AW said that flour milling no-deal planning was continuously dependent on what government eventually agrees. He added that there was limited opportunity to stockpile flour in the Republic of Ireland.
- JS said there were concerns over the dissemination of guidance and what advice could be given to small businesses.
- MB said it had been reported that less than half of vets had signed up to renew accreditation enabling them to sign off exports of animals and animal products. RM said a Defra team were looking at solutions to this issue.
- TM said the NFU and Defra were running a no-deal workshop in the first week of December and details would be circulated to BAG members.

#### **4) Agriculture Bill**

- The document summarising and comparing BAG member responses to the Health and Harmony consultation was missing the NFU view. TM said the NFU had focused on the bill as it went through Parliament but their response could be incorporated for completeness.

**Action: MB to recirculate Health and Harmony responses document.**

#### **5) Any other business**

- RM said it was being investigated whether the FDF Brexit helpline could be run jointly with government.

#### **6) Next meeting**

- The next meeting would be held on 10 December at 21 Arlington Street, commencing at **14.00**.