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20th December 2016

George Eustice, MP
Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London. SW1P 3JR

Dear Minister

Brexit Negotiating Priorities

For information I have enclosed a summary of the opening priorities identified by the AIC membership over the past few months in terms of what they would want to see from UK/ EU negotiations. Clearly this document is an initial assessment of priorities at the beginning of the negotiation process and members recognise the very nature of a negotiating will lead to movement in different areas.

Equally clear however is their concern that the negotiations should not lose sight of the fundamental requirement for UK agriculture to retain its competitive position in both domestic and overseas markets whilst at the same time continuing to deliver to the requirements of the final consumer for quality, safety and sustainability.

Included in the list are some areas which fall outside the direct competency of Defra but which are important components of delivering that competitive agriculture and food sector.

AIC is grateful for the opportunities we have had over recent months to contribute to the debate you and Ministerial colleagues have been managing and we look forward to continuing that process through 2017. As previously stated, AIC remains ready and willing to provide whatever 'real industry' contribution or 'sense check' needed to determine the commercial impact of potential negotiating outcomes as the process moves forward.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rooke
Policy Head

