



CEPM  
maiz'EUROP'

Paris, 24th February 2016

## EUROPEAN MAIZE MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED

At its Board Meeting in Paris on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016, CEPM expressed concerns about the current economic situation of European maize production.

Production declined by 20 million tons in 2015, and forecasts regarding surfaces in 2016 are decreasing despite the many assets maize presents for European agriculture, in a context of very low prices and intense pressure from international competition in imports.

Against this background, CEPM calls on European TTIP negotiators to be cautious. They must not liberalise maize trade any further, given the competition already being faced from countries that have different production constraints or are effectively protected by tariff or sanitary barriers.

The latest CAP reform has weakened regulatory mechanisms and protection for European markets. In its discussion with trade partners, the Commission therefore must take the situation of European maize into account, and in particular be ready to use the latest available customs duties.

At the same time, CEPM calls on the Commission to take into account issues of agricultural inputs and, in particular, access to plant protection products and plant biotechnologies, so that maize can meet the challenges of the future and help guarantee health and food safety in Europe.

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