



16 January 2024

Subject: Food (products) for thought

Dear Sir, Madam,

Dutch companies account for over 3 per cent of world trade. According to CBS (Statistics Netherlands), more than 30 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Netherlands and employment in our country depends on doing business across the border. As a fundamental pillar of the country's economy, trade generates money and provides many jobs. Put simply, international trade in commodities and products is not philanthropy, but essential for earning power, prosperity, employment and the consumer. It is, in short, a vital national interest.

With the main ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the Netherlands has a very strong position in global trade and the processing of a wide range of raw materials. That this remains so is equally of national interest. This infrastructure lays the foundation for our trading position. Similarly, Dutch companies are the linchpin in global agricultural commodity chains, providing super-efficient logistics and a strong food processing industry. In many ways, this makes our country a world leader in this field.

We believe that the products accompanying this letter can stimulate discussions for the new coalition. They simultaneously offer food (products) for thought on the national importance of international trade chains. There are so many examples of the eminence of Dutch trade initiatives. To start, one of the largest chocolate factories in the world is in Veghel. The beating heart of global flower trade is in Aalsmeer. Around Barendrecht, all tropical fruit destined for supermarkets across Europe is processed. And vegetables from all over the world are distributed throughout Europe via Greenport Venlo.

Our strength lies in combining home-grown production with the import, processing and re-export of raw materials from all over the world. The knowledge the Netherlands has about food and food production is unique in the world and of strategic value for sustainable development. In this way, Dutch companies remain crucial partners for suppliers of raw materials in Asia, Africa and South America and policymakers in countries there.

As entrepreneurs, our job is to ensure the continuity of our businesses in these trade chains. At the same time, international trade cannot exist, let alone grow, if companies don't work with their governments. IDH plays a crucial role in this for Dutch companies to gain and maintain access to raw materials that are produced with respect for people and the environment while meeting Dutch quality standards.



To guarantee affordable and quality products for Dutch citizens, now and also in the future, it is essential that also in the Netherlands the government safeguards continuity and takes the lead. In this way, the country can build on its special position in international trade and agricultural commodity chains. This position in the global economy offers many companies in the Netherlands, and their employees, security of existence. Together, they thus provide the foundation of our prosperity and our public services. Furthermore, our position ensures that we can offer Dutch consumers food security, and the promise of continuing to find coffee, tea, bananas and flowers in our shops.

All the signatories of this letter wish to maintain this unique trading position, and preferably strengthen it. During your talks, we hope that this package will provide you with inspiration and plenty to chew on!

On behalf of the companies and industry associations working together (see list below), this package will be sent on 16 January 2024 by

Daan Wensing, IDH

On behalf of the following companies,

Adomex

Afriflora

AgroFair

Bakker Barendrecht

BC Foods

Bieze Food Group

Cassia Coop

Catz International

Grondstof tot nadenken 3/5

CBL, Centraal Bureau Levensmiddelenhandel

De Monchy Natural Products

Dutch Flower Group



Eosta
Epos
Export Trading Group (ETG)
Fairphone
Floral Trade Group
FM Group
FNLI – Federatie Nederlandse Levensmiddelen Industrie
Fresco flowers
GroentenFruit Huis
Het Comité van Graanhandelaren
Holla Roses
Jaguar, the Fresh company
JDE
Koninklike Euroma
Koninklike Nederlandse Specerenvereniging (KNSV)
Kumasi Drinks
Mars
MVO - de ketenorganisatie voor oliën en ve en
Nedspice
Nevedi, de Nederlandse Vereniging Diervoederindustrie
Nestlé
NOFOTA (Netherlands Oils, Fats and Oilseeds Trade
Association) Port of Amsterdam
Riedel
Royal Lemkes
Royal Van Zanten
Salud Foodgroup Europe
Schvens Corporate Fashion
The Greenery
Tonys Choclonely
VAVI (Vereniging voor de Aardappelverwerkende Industrie)
VBZ (Vereniging voor de Bakker en Zoetwarenindustrie)
Verstegen Spices & Sauces
VNO-NCW



 <p>ADOMEX Adomex</p>	 <p>AFRI FLORA Afriflora</p>	 <p>AgroFair RIGHT FROM THE PRODUCER AgroFair</p>	 <p>BAKKER Bakker Barendrecht</p>	 <p>BCFoods BC Foods</p>
 <p>BFG BIEZE FOOD GROUP Bieze Food Group</p>	 <p>Cassia Coop</p>	 <p>CATZ INTERNATIONAL Established 1856 Catz International</p>	 <p>CBL Centraal Bureau Levensmiddelenhandel</p>	 <p>DE MONCHY NATURAL PRODUCTS De Monchy Natural Products</p>
 <p>Dutch Flower Group Dutch Flower Group</p>	 <p>eosta where ecology meets economy Eosta</p>	 <p>epos Epos</p>	 <p>ETG Export Traing Group</p>	 <p>FAIRPHONE Fairphone</p>
 <p>Floral Trade Group Floral Trade Group</p>	 <p>FM Group FM Group</p>	 <p>FNI FEDERATIE NEDERLANDSE LEVENSMEDELEN INDUSTRIE Federatie Nederlandse Levensmiddelen Industrie</p>	 <p>Fresco flowers Fresco Flowers</p>	 <p>GroentenFruit Huis GroentenFruit Huis</p>
 <p>Het Comité van Graanhandelaren</p>	 <p>Holla Roses Holla Roses</p>	 <p>JAGUAR FRESH Jaguar, the Fresh company</p>	 <p>JDE JDE</p>	 <p>eu roma Koninklijke Euroma</p>
 <p>Koninklijke Nederlandse SPECERIJENVERENIGING Koninklijke Nederlandse Specerijenvereniging</p>	 <p>KUMASI Kumasi Drinks</p>	 <p>MARS Mars</p>	 <p>MVO MVO, Ketenorganisatie voor oliën en vetten</p>	 <p>NEDSPICE Nedspice</p>
 <p>Nestlé Nestlé</p>	 <p>Nevedi Nevedi</p>	 <p>NOFOTA NOFOTA (Netherlands Oils, Fats and Oilseeds Trade Association)</p>	 <p>Port of Amsterdam Port of Amsterdam</p>	 <p>Riedel Riedel</p>
 <p>Royal Lemkes SINCE 1882 Royal Lemkes</p>	 <p>Royal Van Zanten Royal van Zanten</p>	 <p>Salud Salud Foodgroup Europe</p>	 <p>schijvens Schijvens Corporate Fashion</p>	 <p>the Greenery The Greenery</p>



cc:

- Voorzitter en woordvoerders van Tweede Kamercommissie Buitenlandse Handel en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking
- Voorzitter en woordvoerders van Tweede Kamercommissie Buitenlandse Zaken
- Voorzitter en woordvoerders van Tweede Kamercommissie Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit
- Voorzitter en woordvoerders van de Tweede Kamercommissie Economische Zaken en Klimaat

GRONDSTOF tot nadenken

With thanks to the following companies
for contributing their products



Oranges from
Jaguar, the
Fresh company



Blueberries, peppers
and radishes from
Bakker Barendrecht



Celebrations
(chocolates) from
Mars



Bananas from
AgroFair



Chocolate from
Tony's
Chocolonely



Tafelgoud (the
alternative to salt)
from Verstegen
Spices & Sauces



Appelsientje (orange juice)
from Riedel



Flowers from the
Dutch Flower Group
and Afriflora Sher



Kumasi sodas from
Kumasi Drinks and
the Export Trading
Group



Pickwick tea
from JDE