

# Statement on Moratorium and Work of the Amazon WG (GTS)

## Alliance of European Consumer Companies welcomes the extension of the Amazon soy moratorium

**Brussels, June 17, 2008** - In early 2006, a number of companies from the European food industry were alerted by Greenpeace and different NGOs to the critical issue of sourcing soya from the Amazon.

They immediately reached out to their suppliers, other NGOs and other companies to resolve this issue and take action. Discussions with key stakeholders led to the companies support for a moratorium on further deforestation for soy in the Amazon.

Following today's announcement from the Amazon Soya Working Group (GTS), which is leading the implementation of the moratorium, we (Carrefour, McDonald's Europe, Marks and Spencer, ASDA, Nutreco, Ahold, Ritter Sport), acknowledge and welcome the decision to extend the initiative for another year in order to complete the development and implementation of the tools to operate in the Amazon biome without driving further deforestation.

In particular, we applaud the positive progress of the GTS in the past two years and recognise that much has been achieved. However, we agree that the process needs to continue.

We welcome the support of the Brazilian Government, as governance, establishing economic-ecologic zoning, land regularisation and environmental licenses are crucial success factors in this process. We appreciate the efforts made by Brazil to be a reliable partner in supplying the European market. We also recognise the importance of a farmers' commitment for the success of this effort.

We renew our commitment to remaining actively engaged. To this end, companies will continue to recognise and support the work being done within their supply chains.

We encourage the pace of progress to be maintained and support the extension of the moratorium for another year to help keep the momentum of activity and urgency going. We are optimistic that the necessary elements that are still outstanding, which have been identified by the representatives of the GTS) will be successfully addressed during this time. However, we expect the moratorium to remain in existence until all commitments have been fulfilled.

Brussels, June 2008

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