

CAOBISCO welcomes the conclusion of the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement

Brussels, 26 March 2026 – Balanced Trade Agreement Strengthens Competitiveness and Export Opportunities for the European Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery Industry

CAOBISCO welcomes the announcement of the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union and Australia. The agreement represents an important step towards strengthening trade relations with a reliable and like-minded partner, while supporting the competitiveness of European chocolate and sugar confectionery manufacturers.

In particular, the elimination of tariffs on EU exports of chocolate, biscuits and sugar confectionery products – which were previously subject to duties of around 5% – represents a very positive development for the sector. Removing these tariffs will help European producers compete on a more level playing field in a dynamic and high-value market where EU products are well recognized for their quality, innovation and premium positioning.

Australia is an important and growing market for high-quality food products. Lower tariffs will make it easier for European confectionery manufacturers, including a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises, to access the Australian market, expand exports and strengthen their presence in a competitive but dynamic global environment.

At a time of growing geopolitical uncertainty and increasing pressure on global supply chains, strengthening trade relations with reliable partners such as Australia is particularly important. The agreement therefore represents a positive step towards improving export opportunities, supporting competitiveness and maintaining value-added production and jobs in the European Union.

For the European food and drink industry – one of Europe’s largest manufacturing sectors and a key contributor to the EU trade surplus – the agreement confirms the importance of balanced and forward-looking trade policy. By improving market access for high-value products such as biscuits, chocolate and confectionery, the EU–Australia FTA supports sustainable growth and innovation across the sector.

CAOBISCO will continue to support balanced, fact-based and forward-looking trade agreements that strengthen competitiveness, improve export opportunities and support the long-term growth of the EU food manufacturing sector.

CAOBISCO is the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuits & Confectionery Industries of Europe. We represent more than 12,000 European chocolate, biscuits and confectionery manufacturing companies, 99% of which are SMEs. The sector is a major player in the European economy, with over 225, 000 direct employees and an annual turnover of over €42 billion.

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