Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We understand that the European Parliament may seek a procedural vote on the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain, to take place on Thursday 25th October.

If this happens we call on you to VOTE IN FAVOUR of immediately entering the trialogue negotiations, in order to advance this legislative proposal without delay on the basis of the positive negotiating mandate that was given by the AGRI committee, which has also had the input of the IMCO, DEVE and ENVI committees.

The Parliament has voted as recently as 2016 in favour of legislative action against Unfair Trading Practices.

Since the current Parliamentary term is almost over, the timeline for trialogue negotiations is tight.

Efforts to insert a further vote on the negotiating mandate should be seen for what they are: cynical attempts by the supermarket lobby to obstruct the process, derailing the finalisation of a Directive within this European Commission’s term.

This directive will curb Unfair Trading Practices in European food supply chains to enable a fair functioning of the EU’s single market, and follows action already taken in 20 member states. Stopping the use of these abusive trading practices will benefit consumers, small shops, workers, farmers and suppliers, as well as reduce food waste.

The AGRI rapporteur MEP De Castro has already denounced the most contested part of the AGRI opinion, publicly declaring that “EP negotiators will support and promote production of premium quality product, which respect higher environmental and animal welfare standards (...) [i]n the final wording of the anti UTPs law” (press release here).

On the 25th of October you can vote to ensure that this important Directive can move to the next stage of negotiations.

We remain at your disposal for any questions that you may have.

With kind regards,

Tom Wills, on behalf of Traidcraft Exchange, IFOAM, Oxfam, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, SOMO and Feedback