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A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

European Commission Fails to Extend Glyphosate License

- The European Commission Standing Committee on Plant Animal Food and Feed met as scheduled on November 9; however, no qualified majority among member states was reached to approve or reject the Commission's proposal for a five year-extension for the glyphosate license.
- Members failed twice in October to vote on a 10-year license extension. As a result, the Commission dropped its 10-year license extension proposal in favor for a five-year extension (*BCI Monitor* 10-31-17).
- According to media sources, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Hungary, Latvia, and Lithuania all voted in favor of a five-year approval. There were nine members that voted against the proposal, and another six that abstained from the vote.
- The current glyphosate authorization expires on December 15, 2017. An appeal vote is expected at the end of the month.

United Kingdom Supports Ban on Neonicotinoid Pesticides

- The United Kingdom (U.K.) has changed its position on the use of neonicotinoids. Michael Gove, the U.K. environment secretary signaled that the nation would support a total ban on neonicotinoid pesticides across the European Union (EU) due to the growing evidence that they harm bees and other pollinators.
- In the past, the U.K. government has generally backed the view that the chemicals are safe, and it was overruled in 2013 when the EU banned three types of neonicotinoid pesticides for most uses. Grove, according to media sources, will impose the same standards on neonicotinoids after the U.K. departs from the EU in 2019.
- Recently, the EU notified the World Trade Organization of its proposal to end the use of all neonicotinoids, except for the application in permanent greenhouses. The European Commission Standing Committee of Plants, Animals, Food and Feed has not yet voted on the proposal; however, if the restrictions enter into force by the end of 2017, all prohibitions would be in place by mid-2018. The U.S. Department of Agriculture at the end of October, published a [report](#) on the EU's proposal to further restrict the use of neonicotinoids (*BCI Monitor* 10-31-17).

Miscellaneous Tariffs Bill Introduced in the U.S. Senate

- The leaders of the Senate Finance and House Ways & Means committees recently introduced the [Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017](#). The proposed legislation would cut 1,675 tariff lines.
- The International Trade Commission submitted a report to Congress in August, recommending that more than 1,800 products be included in the miscellaneous tariff bill (MTB) legislation. The ITC, in its report, must also determine that there are no domestic producers that object to a recommended product receiving a tariff cut. By law, the Congress can only temporarily suspend the tariffs of products recommended by the ITC. The last MTB expired on December 31, 2012.
- According to media sources, this legislation could be packaged with legislation regarding the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as the 2015 GSP reauthorization will expire on December 31, 2017. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) new enforcement priorities for GSP at the end of October, and on November 14, USTR published a [notice](#) in the U.S. *Federal Register* regarding the availability of import statistics relating to Competitive Need Limitations under GSP.

Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement Negotiations Concluded

- Peru and Australia on November 10 concluded negotiations for the [Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement](#) (PAFTA). A fellow signatory to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, Peru has been one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America, and the world, over the last decade.
- PAFTA aims to launch a new chapter in economic relations between Australia and Latin America. Peru has been a growing market for Australian goods for years. In 2016, total two-way trade in goods and services was worth AUD\$590 million, up 51.2 percent from the previous year.
- PAFTA will eliminate more than 99 percent of tariffs within five years of entry into force. A number of key agricultural commodities will gain duty-free entry to Peru including beef, sugar, rice, dairy, almonds, and wine.
- Peru and Australia first launched negotiations for a free trade agreement in late May (*BCI Monitor* 6-06-17). Both countries will now follow their own domestic treaty making processes and PAFTA will enter into force 60 days after both signatories have notified completion of their domestic legal procedures. The full text of the agreement will be released once the agreement has been signed.

Progress Made Towards Finalizing the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

- Ministers from the 11 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Da Nang, Vietnam.
- The TPP-11 trade ministers issued a [joint statement](#) outlining their plan for bringing the agreement into force under the new name of “Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership” (CPTPP). The plan includes a list of [20 provisions](#) that will be suspended due to U.S. no longer being part of the pact.
- The 11 members took a big step towards completing the agreement; however, according to media sources, some issues still remain before the final deal can be signed. Issues such as state-owned enterprises in Malaysia, a dispute settlement provision involving Vietnam, and a cultural exception issue related to Canada remain to be addressed.

European Union and Chile to Modernize Trade Agreement

- The European Union (EU) and Chile will hold the first round of negotiations for a modernized Association Agreement on November 16, in Brussels, Belgium.
- The goal is to update the 14-year-old EU-Chile Association Agreement to bring its political and cooperation ambitions, as well as trade provisions, in line with the EU's modern agreements. A second round will take place in early 2018.
- The EU is Chile's second largest trade partner, accounting for almost 15 percent of Chile's total trade in 2016. Since entry into force in 2003, EU exports to Chile have risen by 170 percent, with imports rising by around half. More information about EU-Chile relations is available [here](#).