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Dear Minister,

In accordance with my mission as EU Commissioner for agriculture to promote Europe's high-quality agri-food products worldwide, I will continue my diplomatic efforts in support of EU agri-food producers from the EU 27 Member States. My third high-level mission will therefore take place in India from 6 to 12 December 2023, in conjunction with our presence at SIAL India international fair with the EU pavilion.

The main objective of my mission to India is to meet relevant political high-level actors in particular the Indian Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare but also the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Minister of External Affairs, among other Ministers. The political agenda would contain items related to the barriers to access the Indian market, to the negotiations on the Geographical Indications Agreement and the Free Trade Agreement. I also want to exchange with my Indian counterparts on our Green Deal and Farm to Fork ambitions and continue our efforts on innovation for the transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

As ever, in addition to the political exchanges I will be having, an important aspect of my visit in India will be facilitating market access and contacts between the European and Indian businesses active in the agri-food sector. For this reason, I wish to be accompanied by a delegation of up to 70 senior European executives representing companies from all EU Member States, including European and national producers' associations, from key sectors with the most significant potential for the EU's trade and cooperation with India.

These would be especially, but not exclusively, pork and poultry, chocolate, confectionery and bakery, dairy, wines, beer and spirits, olive oil and vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables, geographical indication products, commodities such as grains, oilseeds and animal feed.

Mr Samuel VLČAN
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dobrovičova 12
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Accordingly, the visit to India will concentrate on providing market intelligence in the food and beverage sector, followed by business-to-business activities. The programme of the business delegation will provide the representatives of the European agri-food sector with an excellent platform to discover the Indian market and to make direct business contacts both in New Delhi (mainly at SIAL India) as well as in Mumbai.

Such a trade mission cannot be accomplished without the assistance of the Member States. For this reason, I would be grateful if you could disseminate this invitation to the appropriate contacts in your Member State.

Interested companies and organisations can register their applications for joining the business delegation online following the link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HLM-India-2023>

*The final selection of the business representatives to accompany me will be based on product and geographical balance of the delegation. In this context the candidates' representativeness of a given sector, their capacity to conduct international business and accessing challenging markets will also be taken into account. In order to guarantee a timely organisation of the visit, we would like to receive applications by **15 June 2023** at the latest.*

Finally, it is important to ensure an adequate promotion of agri-food products from all Member States during my visit to India. Therefore, I would appreciate if the relevant services of Slovakia could assist the Commission in this respect to ensure that our Indian counterparts perceive the EU as diverse yet united in its approach to promote and protect Member States' food, enhance its global reach and unique national agri-food heritage.

I am sure that I can rely on your full support, and on the help of your Ministry to ensure that the delegation represents a broad spectrum of the EU agri-food industry and has sufficient weight to achieve our purpose.

Yours faithfully,



Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI