Regulation (EU) 2026/1739 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 July 2026 amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain

Consultation Response - Agricultural Industries Confederation

Submitted 13 August 2026

1 Does it appear likely that the EU act would have a significant negative impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist?

No

Tell us why :

See answer 3

2 Does it appear likely that NOT APPLYING the EU act would have a significant negative impact specific to everyday life of communities in Northern Ireland in a way that is liable to persist?

Unsure

Tell us why :

See answer 3

3 Are there any other matters regarding the EU act that you wish to draw to the Committee's attention? Please note, any information provided should be of an evidential nature rather than a commentary.

Yes

Tell us why :

The AIC, including the Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association (NIGTA), have been following Regulation (EU) 2026/1739 closely, principally by one of the AIC's European Associations, Coceral. Coceral represent traders in cereals and oilseeds commodities EU wide and AIC sits on its Board, representing the UK.

The Regulation (EU) 2026/1739 does not appear to introduce the farmer-contract and supply-chain bargaining measures into Northern Ireland that would impact current business practices, according to the explanatory notes. AIC and NIGTA would ask for clarity that this is indeed the case, as introducing the EU regulation would bring potential problems to the NI supply chain, especially in sectors that have longer contracts in place such as feed compounders who buy directly from farmers. These are detailed below.

According to the explanatory notes, the provisions applying in Northern Ireland are limited to agricultural marketing standards, notably the voluntary useof the terms "fair", "equitable" and "short supply chain", meat-term protections and a minor origin-labelling amendment. As a result, AIC and NIGTA does not currently identify a significant impact on grain, feed or seed trading arrangements as these are not common terms used in commodity grain and oilseed sectors.

From an EU wide perspective, Coceral has noted some of the concerns that relate to the Regulation over contracts in the grain and feed sectors. These include:

- Contracts may need to include how prices are determined, and this is difficult where price formulas could conflict with how global grain markets operate, with open futures.

- Cases where Member States believe the objectives of transparency have already been achieved

- The revision clause; the final regulation requires contracts longer than 12 months (6 months in dairy) to include a revision clause that can be triggered by the farmer. The core concern of Coceral is that the revision clause could have significant unintended consequences for grain and oilseed markets.

It is important therefore that the implementation of the Regulation is consistent with AIC and NIGTA interpretation of the accompanying explanatory notes.