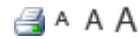




## Freshfel Newsletter 11 - 20/03/2017



### Inside this issue:

Freshfel compromise position on plant health  
Horizontal rules for import and export licences (garlic)

### Events

Freshfel Food Quality WG on 11 May 2017. Finalised agenda is now available

### Agricultural Policy

Group of experts and Committee for the Single CMO  
Publication of implementing Regulation for the fruit and vegetable sector  
Enabling the Business of Agriculture report 2017 published  
Norway and Iceland to resume organic exports to the EU  
Benchmarking: EIP-AGRI report and factsheet

### Food Safety

Active substance: diphenylamine (DPA) in apples and pears  
Contaminants: Perchlorate  
European guidelines on comparability, extrapolation, group tolerances and data requirements for setting MRLs  
Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed - week 11

### Nutrition & health

State of play childhood obesity plans  
France to adopt a colour-coded food label

### Sustainability

EP votes on circular economy and waste

### Trade Policy

Text of Official Control Revision adopted in the European Parliament  
WTO notifications  
AGRI Committee calls on softening the proposal for "Temporary autonomous trade measures for Ukraine"

## Other

First coolingEU newsletter  
CHAFEA Promotion webinars

## Consultations

Public Consultation on EU's Generalised Scheme of Preference

## Research and Innovation

Cloud technology for organic supply chain integrity  
Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda 2017-2022 on Plant Health  
RECAP (Reinforcing CAP) project

---

### **Freshfel compromise position on plant health**

In the past few weeks , a Freshfel WG appointed by the Board reviewed different aspects relating to plant health issues, with the perspective of reconciling diverging positions and perspectives on these technical dossiers with due consideration of both production and trade perspectives and from the view of the "northern " and "southern" members of the European Freshfel membership.

The enclosed position is the starting point of an on-going work , covering matters relating to the annexes of Council Directive 2000/29 and the implementing acts of Regulation 2016/2031.

The WG will now seek meeting with European institutions and will continue to work on several aspects in more details. The plant health issues will also be on the agenda of the upcoming Freshfel Food Quality meeting of 11 May.

#### **Related document**

- [Freshfel compromise position on plant health](#)

---

### **Horizontal rules for import and export licences (garlic)**

With a few of the on-going debate regarding the revision of the horizontal rules for import and export licences, Freshfel subltitted an update of his position. A meeting took palce last week between the Commission and the Member States. The latest version in discussion is now the version 8.

In regard to garlic, the Commission continues to review the statuts of the past data (historical references as presented by Member States), possible misues of Member States reference quantities, but also how to introduce a new system addressing concerns/weakensses from the past and also improve for the future the transparency of the system.

The latest position of Freshfel is to be found below.

#### **Related document**

- [Freshfel position on garlic](#)
-

# Events

## **Freshfel Food Quality WG on 11 May 2017. Finalised agenda is now available**

The forthcoming meeting of the Freshfel Food Quality WG will take place on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at the office of CEEV/Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins (Avenue des Arts 43 / 5e, B-1040 Brussels). The meeting will start at 10h00 and will finish at approximately 16h00. A working lunch will be foreseen.

Please find the invitation/agenda of the meeting enclosed.

### **Related document**

- [Invitation/agenda](#)

---

# Agricultural Policy

## **Group of experts and Committee for the Single CMO**

Last week, the Commission discussed with Member States its proposals in regard to:

- Prolongation of the exceptional measures following the Russian embargo
- Revision of the marketing standards

On both issues, Freshfel submitted a position paper that can be found below. Here is a summary outcome of the discussion:

- On the Russian embargo most of the Member States welcomed the Commission initiative to prolong the scheme for another year. A debate on the scope of the measure took place, in particular on the concern of several Member States (and Freshfel) that non permanent crops were not included. The Commission is not aiming to include at this point any specific structural measures and will continue with the same tools as last year (green/non harvesting, free destination, other destinations). In regard to structural measures (grubbing up), COM is considering that both the CMO and rural development instruments might provide tools in this respect that can be used. However, a specific instrument might still be considered for the medium term for unsettled situation.
- In regard to marketing standards, a general consensus was reached to move forward with the alignment of the EU marketing standards with those of UNECE. A few aspects will be checked on different standards (apples, pears, citrus, strawberries) before proceeding to the alignment. The meeting also discussed several points raised by Freshfel on the basic rules, in terms of simplification of the particulars to be provided on the invoice/accompanying documents, on matters relating to on-line sales, or to the indication of packer/dispatcher/importer on the packaging. This last point is relevant concerning the difference of provisions between the EU marketing standards /UNECE and the provisions of the legislation on food information to consumers. On the aspects relating to simplification (on-line sales and particulars of the invoice) Freshfel will continue to advocate on the practical implication of the lack of simplification, some member states being reluctant to remove the need of indicating the origin, as it is considered to be a key aspect of the consignment.

The next meeting of the Group of Experts and Committee for the Single CMO is scheduled for the 20 April.

## Related document

- [Freshfel position exceptional measures](#)
- [Draft delegated act exceptional measures](#)
- [Draft annex delegated act exceptional measures](#)
- [Freshfel position marketing standards](#)
- [Draft adjustments Regulation 543](#)

---

## **Publication of implementing Regulation for the fruit and vegetable sector**

As part of the ongoing Better Regulation agenda of the European Commission, many pieces of legislation were updated and simplified, including the rules for the fruit and vegetable sector. The updated implementing regulation to 1308/2013 will strengthen the role of Producer Organisations (POs), by making them more attractive to non-members, while at the same time improving the functioning of the existing market management scheme. Furthermore, there will be an increase in the support for market withdrawals. Withdrawal prices will increase from 30% to 40% of the average EU market price over the last five years for free distribution (so-called charity withdrawals) and from 20% to 30% for withdrawals destined for other purposes (such as compost, animal feed, distillation, etc.). Finally, the updated Regulation will include a simplification and clarification of the legislation with regards to transnational producer organisations and their associations.

More information [can be found here](#).

---

## **Enabling the Business of Agriculture report 2017 published**

The World Bank's 'Enabling the Business of Agriculture' (EBA) report of 2017 was published last month. The report argues that many countries already have strong and commercially oriented agriculture, but that more still needs to be done to encourage agriculture business, such as lowering transaction costs, improving water permits for irrigation or better conditions for microfinancing. The latest EBA report presents information on barriers for farmers, businesses and entrepreneurs in agriculture in 62 countries. The 2017 edition looks into a variety of topics such as, land, seed, fertilizer, machinery, water, livestock, finance, markets, transport, ICT, and the 2017 survey also looked into laws and regulations that impact environmental sustainability and gender.

The Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2017 report and more information can be found here:

<http://eba.worldbank.org/>

---

## **Norway and Iceland to resume organic exports to the EU**

Organic products from Norway and Iceland will be allowed to be imported again to the EU, given a decision by the European Economic Area joint committee meeting last week. This puts an end to an 8 year delay during which Norway and Iceland could not export organic products to the EU. The main product concerned was organic salmon, but applies to all products.

More information can be [found here \(EU\)](#) or [here \(EFTA\)](#).

---

## **Benchmarking: EIP-AGRI report and factsheet**

Benchmarking can support farmers to improve their productivity and sustainability performance by comparing with peers, learning from others, and identifying actions. Valuable lessons can be drawn from benchmarking by raising the subsequent questions: why are others better?, how are others better?, what can be learnt?, and how can the farm catch up? The EIP-AGRI Focus Group on Benchmarking brought together 20 experts from 14 EU Member States and a diverse range of backgrounds. They explored the potential for farmers and advisers to use farm benchmarking data and process to improve productivity and sustainability performance in agriculture. For more information on the EIP-AGRI Focus Group on

Benchmarking, click [here](#). More info on its ideas for operational groups and innovative ideas, can be found in this [report](#) and [factsheet](#). For an example of an online benchmarking tool developed by the Teagasc in Ireland, click [here](#).

## Food Safety

### **Active substance: diphenylamine (DPA) in apples and pears**

The current temporary MRL for DPA on/in apples and pears is 0.1 ppm. Commission Regulation (EU) No 772/2013 set temporary MRLs for apples and pears given the persistency of DPA on the storage walls and packing stations in various countries.

In 2015, the monitoring data showed the unavoidable cross-contamination risk for untreated apples and pears. In order to provide the necessary time for business operators to completely remove the residues of diphenylamine in storage facilities, it was agreed to maintain those temporary MRLs, which will be reviewed within 2 years from the publication of this Regulation.

Regulation (EU) 2016/67 regarding the extension of temporary MRL was published on 22 January 2016. Given the condition of 2 years provided in the regulation, the Commission will accept further comments regarding the persistency of DPA in apple and pear storages in EU & non-EU countries till beginning of December 2017. If no comments provided or if the transmitted residues of DPA are minimum, the Commission will lower the MRL from 0.1 ppm to the level of detection 0.05 ppm. For the moment the Commission has no plans to reduce the LOD of DPA.

### **Contaminants: Perchlorate**

The European Commission adopted an updated statement on the presence of perchlorate in food on 23 June 2015. The perchlorate levels as reference for intra-Union trade are as follows:

Food category	Level (mg/kg)
Fruits and vegetables with the exception of the ones mentioned below	0,1
- Cucurbitaceae and leafy vegetables except	0.2
- -celery and spinach grown in glasshouse/undercover	0.5
- - herbs, lettuce and salad plants, including rucola, grown in glasshouse/under covers	1.0
Dried spices (except dried herbs and paprika), dried hops	0,5
Tea ( <i>Camellia sinensis</i> ), dried	0,75
Herbal and fruit infusions, dried	0.75
Foods for infants and young children - ready-to-eat	0,02
Other food	0,05

As these levels are the reference levels/indicative interim levels, the Commission requested the Member States to monitor the presence of perchlorate in various food products.

In June 2017, new EFSA opinion on a human exposure assessment to perchlorate will be released.

Freshfel will collect data from its members on the maximum levels. The data should be sent to the Commission before June for immediate assessment together with the EFSA Opinion. Apart of the residue data, the Commission will also require information regarding the reasons of the occurrence of perchlorate in food stuff.

Freshfel will prepare a template for data collection and share with its members in the month of April.

---

## **European guidelines on comparability, extrapolation, group tolerances and data requirements for setting MRLs**

Recently DG Santé, European Commission released the European guidance document on *comparability, extrapolation, group tolerances and data requirements for setting MRLs*.

The guideline is aimed not only at those intending either to register a plant protection product or to establish a maximum residue limit (MRL) for a plant protection product in a specific commodity in the European Union but also at those responsible for regulating such substances and commodities. The guideline provides a summarised overview on the general principles of setting up MRLs, relevant changes in trial parameters, impact of climatic conditions/weather influences, residue decline studies/values at harvest and comparable residue behaviour in different crops.

The guidance document can be found: [here](#)

---

## **Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed - week 11**

The enclosed overview of notifications on fresh fruit and vegetables are derived from the EU's rapid alert system for food and feed.

An alert notification is sent when a food or feed presenting a serious risk is on the market and when immediate action is required, whereas an information notification is where a risk has been identified with a particular product but no action is necessary. Border rejections concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at the external borders of the EU when a health risk was found.

### **Related document**

- [Overview RASFF notifications](#)
- 

## **Nutrition & health**

### **State of play childhood obesity plans**

The European Commission has published a study on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020. Interestingly, the study looks at different angles of how to achieve decreasing levels of childhood obesity, such as a healthy start in life (targeted at mothers-to-be and babies), promoting healthier environments (particularly schools and pre-schools), but also on making the healthy option the easy option (promotion, subsidies etc.), looking into advertisement and marketing restrictions, information to families, as well as stimulating more physical activity.

As of page 48, there is a check list to see which policies or incentives have been underutilised to stimulate healthier living for children. One of these is a subsidy on healthier products (outside the scope of the school schemes). Only Hungary has implemented a decreased taxation for some products. Nutrient profiles used to reduce the advertisement to children is also used far too little, as well as policies on integrated management of childhood obesity. As such, this study analyses the methods used by the different member states to reduce childhood obesity, and highlights other methods that are not being explored enough. It gives an overview per country and therefore clearly shows what still can be investigated per country as possible options to help reduce childhood obesity.

The full report [can be found here](#).

---

### **France to adopt a colour-coded food label**

France is about to adopt a voluntary colour-coded nutritional label for food products. The five-colour 5C Nutri-Score label is almost certain to be recommended by the French Health Ministry. Last week there was a publication of the results of voluntary tests on rival labels in France throughout last year. The test was to see which of the different labels works best in their understanding at consumer level. The French Health Minister, Marisol Touraine, said the independent scientific committee which assessed the ten-week trial had confirmed that the 5C label was notably better, particularly in helping consumers from poorer households to choose healthier foods. The other labels tested included the UK traffic light label; the retailers' SENS system, based on frequency of consumption; and the food industry's Reference Intake label. The 5C Nutri-Score model gives each food one of five colour ratings using a nutrient profiling system. As such, there is just one colour per food item, not per nutrient. The label is meant for processed foods primarily, but will remain voluntary in France. However, this is indicating a general trend towards more national interest in such labelling schemes. At the EU Platform for Diet meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 6 companies presented their own traffic light label as well, indicating that such a label is definitely becoming of more interest to national governments.

More [information here](#).

---

## Sustainability

### **EP votes on circular economy and waste**

Last week, during the Strasbourg session of the European Parliament, Members of the European Parliament voted on four waste-management directives as part of the circular economy package. MEP Simona Bonafè (S&D, Italy), the Rapporteur on the four directives on waste reduction and recycling, was backed by a large majority in the European Parliament. Close to three quarters of all waste (not just food) should be recycled by 2030, as the European Parliament said in a resolution setting out its position on limiting landfilling and incineration of rubbish. This comes ahead of negotiations with the member states on EU legislation aiming to reduce the environmental impact of waste.

Food waste, which was included as part of the 'waste directives' in the EU is estimated at some 89 million tonnes, or 180 kg per capita per year. MEPs advocate an EU food waste reduction target of 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030, compared to 2014. They also propose a similar target for marine litter. The four reports adopted on Tuesday in the EP Plenary represent Parliament's negotiating position, ahead of negotiations with Council of ministers, which yet has to adopt its own position.

More information [can be found here](#).

---

## Trade Policy

### **Text of Official Control Revision adopted in the European Parliament**

The European Parliament has adopted the legal text for the Official Control Revision on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. The text had been finalised in the trialogue in June 2016 and had undergone a procedure of legal scrubbing. The final text will be formally adopted by the Council in the next weeks and published in the Official Journal in the upcoming weeks. The legislation comes with a couple of implemented and delegated acts, which will be discussed in the upcoming years. MEP's have been praising in particular the requirements for unannounced inspections of food businesses, as well as the new fining rules, the new rules on administrative assistance. With regard to the delegated acts, MEPs called the Commission to close cooperation, since members of the Parliament have to give their consent. Implementing powers of the European Commission stay with regard to the definition of rules for the laboratories on authenticity and integrity, the coordinated assistance in event of infringement and the cooperation between businesses and competent authorities. The new legislation gives the Commission power, to also introduce additional implemented and delegated acts if necessary. Among others, it may set rules on the types of samples taken and the frequency of controls. With regard to plant products, the first topics to be discussed are: the setting up of reference laboratories and border controls.

#### **Related document**

- [Final Text Official Control Reform](#)

---

## **WTO notifications**

The report on the WTO notifications for the period of 13-20 March 2017 can be found enclosed in the section below.

### **Related document**

- [WTO notifications](#)

---

## **AGRI Committee calls on softening the proposal for “Temporary autonomous trade measures for Ukraine”**

MEP's of the AGRI-Committee have adopted an opinion to prevent further tariff cuts and extensions on tariff quotas for certain agricultural products such as for the import of tomatoes, wheat and maize from Ukraine. The session has been held March 13. Main reasoning is the argument, that the EU agricultural sector still is facing a significant crisis and does not need further market pressure. The EU had proposed in autumn 2016 a political show of good will with regard to the DCFTA with Ukraine, announcing further tariff cuts for Ukraine. The proposed change, once in force, would apply for 3 years. The lead on the file is within the INTA-Committee which will vote at the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2017.

### **Related document**

- [Commission Proposal on temporary autonomous trade measures for Ukraine](#)
- [EP Opinion](#)

---

## Other

### **First coolingEU newsletter**

Please find the first [coolingEU newsletter here](#). If you would like to share your story or share an example of practice at your organisation regarding cooling practices, please do not hesitate to send in an article to [Daphne](#). The coolingEU newsletter will be drafted once a month.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, Freshfel is as supporter of the stakeholder forum 'coolingEU', which brings together different stakeholders from the cooling supply and demand side. More information can be found via: <https://coolingeu.eu/>

---

### **CHAFEA Promotion webinars**

CHAFEA, the Consumer, Health, Agriculture, and Food Executive Agency, held a webinar on 14 March on How to Draft a Communication Strategy for the promotion of agricultural products. The webinar was meant to help those applying for co-financed promotional programmes to improve the quality of their proposals, and companies and organisations from the agri-food sector to better promote their products. Below you can find the presentation used during the webinar.

In the upcoming weeks and months, following webinars are organised for which you can register [here](#):

- 21 March 2017, at 10:30 am on Promotion of IP Matters in the Food & Beverages Sector related to Vietnam, Singapore, and Indonesia.
- 23 March 2017, at 10:00 am on How to set campaign objectives, impact indicators, and measure results

- 3 May 2017, at 10:30 am on IP Commercialisation and Licensing

### Related document

- [How to draft a communication strategy](#)
- 

## Consultations

### **Public Consultation on EU's Generalised Scheme of Preference**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the mid-term evaluation of the EU's Generalised System of Preferences. The [consultation](#) opened on the 17th of March and will be available until the **9th June 2017**. The consultation collects information, views and opinions on the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and relevance of the EU's GSP Regulation. The questionnaire is open to all stakeholders.

---

## Research and Innovation

### **Cloud technology for organic supply chain integrity**

Supply chain integrity in the organic sector is about ensuring the visibility and traceability of products within the supply chain. Organic consumers trust the labels on organic products, and therefore the integrity of the sector must be ensured to maintain the trust of the consumer. Besides regulatory requirements, a number of private initiatives are currently addressing this issue. This includes Organic Services that has developed a system called "Check Organic". Check Organic is a cloud-based solution which has been designed to enhance the visibility and traceability of organic products. It brings together certification, information, and supply chain data. On an online platform, users can visualise their supply chains, track products and be notified when problems may arise. This solution was a winner at the TP Organics 'Organic Innovation Days'. Check Organic won first prize for the session 'Innovating for organic, innovating for agriculture' under the theme 'Increasing transparency in the organic value chain'. For more information concerning the Check Organic system and its workings, click [here](#).

---

### **Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda 2017-2022 on Plant Health**

Euphresco, the network of organisations funding research projects and coordinating national research in the phytosanitary area, has released its Strategic Research Agenda for 2017-2022, wherein it identifies plant health research priorities that need to be addressed over the medium term through national and transnational efforts. The research agenda was developed to set the plant health research priorities to address over the next 5-10 years. The objectives listed in the document set a common ground to increase coordination and co-operation between nationally-based, regional and international phytosanitary research programmes. More information and a link to the agenda can be found [here](#).

---

### **RECAP (Reinforcing CAP) project**

The Horizon2020 project RECAP (Reinforcing CAP) aims to facilitate the cross-compliance monitoring procedure via a cloud-based platform where remote sensing technology will be combined with a modern ICT platform. This will become a tool for all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the CAP and the farmers' compliance to standards. Until now, this monitoring is done via field visits and remote sensing, which entails a high cost for public administrations. The platform would combine a large amount of data from remote satellite sensing and information provided by the farmers themselves via mobile devices. RECAP will perform pilot testing in 5 locations: Spain, Greece, Lithuania, UK, and Serbia,

with the active participation of public organisations, agricultural consultants, and farmers. [The website](#) of the project provides more detailed information concerning RECAP.

---

This Newsletter contains information for the personal use of Freshfel members only, and must not be further disseminated to non-members. Freshfel members are kindly invited to inform the Secretariat about any specific country or industry developments which are appropriate for circulation in this Newsletter. For more information on the contents of this Newsletter, contact Philippe Binard, Raquel Izquierdo de Santiago, Eglè Baecke-Eimontaitè, Daphne van Doorn, Nelli Hajdu or Helene Deruwe at the Association 's Secretariat.

**EUROPEAN FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION A.I.S.B.L.**

Rue de Trèves 49-51 bte 8 • 1040 Brussels • Belgium • Tel: +32 2 777 15 80 • Fax: +32 2 777 15 81

e-mail: [info@freshfel.org](mailto:info@freshfel.org) • [www.freshfel.org](http://www.freshfel.org) • [www.enjoyfresh.eu](http://www.enjoyfresh.eu) • [www.kidsenjoyfresh.eu](http://www.kidsenjoyfresh.eu) • [www.freshquality.eu](http://www.freshquality.eu)

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).