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## **Freshfel – PROFEL Annual Event**

For the first time, Freshfel held its Annual Event together with PROFEL, the European Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processors. The conference focused on fruit and vegetables and how they are contributing to healthy and sustainable solutions for Europe's food challenges.

The event was designed to gather both sectors together in a joint effort to promote the assets of fruit and vegetables for a healthy and sustainable diet. Their important role in agricultural production, trade, and research and innovation was highlighted throughout the conference. During the morning session, speakers from the European Commission, Imperial College London, and EU-Insight presented the future of fruit and vegetables in changing policy, market and communication environments. Fruit and vegetables play an important role in the adaptation and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy, in a competitive food market and in the new reality of social media.

A panel in the afternoon, consisting of members of the European Parliament and policy makers from the European Commission, discussed growth and the role of fruit and vegetables through a strong political impetus. The afternoon session also focussed on growth via the vegan/vegetarian movement and on the impact of the healthy and sustainable assets of fruit and vegetables. The event concluded with a mutual declaration which included industry commitments to highlight the importance of fruit and vegetables for European consumers.

Freshfel's take away message can be found here in this press release:

<http://freshfel.org/policy-makers-and-the-fruit-and-vegetable-industry-need-to-cooperate-better/>

Please [find here the link](#) with all the PDF presentations of the meeting.

The first pictures can be found here: <http://freshfel.org/annual-event/impressions/> More will be uploaded throughout the course of this week.

Some of FreshPlaza's press articles can be found here: [on the general event](#) (including a picture gallery) and an article on [Prof David Hughes](#).

Freshfel's Activity Report for 2017 can be found via the Freshfel website: <http://freshfel.org/about-freshfel/activity-reports/>

Finally, we would like to thank all of the members who participated to our Annual Event, who all contributed to this event becoming a success! And of course we would also like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible!

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## **CoolingEU Launch event**

Last week on Monday 19 June, the coolingEU stakeholder platform was officially launched with an event organised by Euroheat & Power. As mentioned in previous Newsletters, Freshfel is a supporter of the coolingEU Platform, which helps to stimulate discussion and innovation with regards to cooling needs in Europe. The Platform brings together the supply and demand side of the cooling sector in Europe to exchange on best practices, discuss about policy initiatives and trying to bring cooling to the EU's agenda. Freshfel is involved given that the food sector is increasingly dependent on cooling, not in the least the fresh fruit and vegetable sector.

The launch event was a very well attended event, with highly interesting discussions with the European Commission, as well as presentations from all the different sectors involved in cooling. The sectors that presented themselves were the food sector, manufacturing industry, cool buildings and cooling from a consumers' perspective.

All the presentations are available [here](#).

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## **Reminder: Import-Export Division meeting 11th of June 2017**

The next Freshfel Trade meeting, combining import and export division, will take place on Tuesday, 11th of July at our Freshfel Office (Rue de Trèves 49-51, 1040 Brussels). The meeting will start at 10.30 and will finish at approximately 16.00. A working lunch will be foreseen.

Topics discussed during the meeting will be:

- Export & Import trends and current trade flows
- Status quo: Free Trade Negotiations & SPS Challenges
- Market Access Third Countries
- Consequences of a pending BREXIT
- Plant and food safety / Official Control Reform
- Certification matters

See the draft agenda attached below. If you miss a topic, please feel to contact us at any time. Please indicate your participation via [nelli@freshfel.org](mailto:nelli@freshfel.org)

### **Related document**

- [Agenda Import - Export Meeting](#)
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## **Agricultural Policy**

### **Upcoming steps for the “Unfair Trading Practices”-Dossier – Commissioner Hogan addresses EP Agri-Committee**

Agricultural Commissioner Hogan has addressed at the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development of the EP with regard to the pending question on unfair trading practices. The Council had adopted in December 2016 the opinion of the non-paper handed in by several Eastern European MS, which has been calling for EU legislation to tackle the issue. The report followed after the publication of the findings of the Agricultural Market Task Force of DG Agri, who had been identifying potential areas for legal changes, among them contract and competition law. Therefore, DG COMP's Margrethe Vestager has been present during the hearing as well, to show the common commitment to introduce legal measures. Commissioner Hogan recalled in his speech, that he is willing to build a more resilient agricultural sector, but also the necessity to maintain the voluntary initiatives to tackle issues within the supply chain. He underlined further, that EU legislation must take into account the various national legal and voluntary initiatives and should not harm those countries, where efficient measures are in place. The Commission will carry out an impact assessment and will look into all the options possible. The impact assessments results are expected to be published in the first half of 2018. Also a public consultation for stakeholder opinions will be part of the assessment.

### **Related document**

- [Non-Paper of the Council from December 2016](#)
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### **EUROSTAT launches food price monitoring tool**

Eurostat had launched a [monitoring tool to enhance price transparency](#) along the food supply chain, to allow a better overview on the volatility on the agricultural market. The tool visualizes the development of agricultural prices, import prices, producer/consumer prices – by category and country. For the launch 15 supply chains are covered. The tool is available in 23 languages.

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# Food Safety

## DG Santé audit reports

DG Santé, European Commission has published the following auditing report:

- Germany - [Enhanced import controls](#)
- United Kingdom - [Contaminants in food](#)
- Italy - [Enhanced import controls](#)

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## Corrigendum: Increased import controls: Changes to Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 669/2009

This is the corrigendum of the same article in the newsletter 22.

**The amendments shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.**

\*\*\*\*\*

At the recent Commission's Standing Committee meeting, the following proposed changes to Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 were voted. The amendments shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The voted changes to Annex I regarding fresh produce are as follows:

### **New listings:**

- -

### **Decrease of frequency of official controls:**

- Peas with pods from Kenya due to pesticides – from 10% to 5%
- Brassica oleracean (Chinese broccoli) from China due to pesticides – from 50% to 20%

### **De-listings:**

- Aubergines from Cambodia due to pesticides

### **Related document**

- [Draft Regulation](#)
- [Annex of draft Regulation](#)

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## Active substances: neocotinoids

In May (Freshfel newsletter 18), a joint letter was sent to the Commission on foreseen further restrictions on the use of neocotinoids. Last week the Commissioner V. Andriukaitis responsible for health and food safety responded to the letter. The response letter can be found in the attachments.

### **Related document**

- [Response letter](#)
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## **Active substance: thiabendazole**

On 12-13 June, a Standing Committee meeting on Pesticides Residues took place. Thiabendazole (TBZ) was on the agenda for a discussion.

- The European Commission gave an overview regarding the issue: the MRL of Thiabendazole in mangos and sweet potatoes. The Commission also reminded to the MSs that the MRL for these two crops was lowered at the Standing Committee meeting in February: for mangos from 5 ppm to the LOD (0.01 ppm) & for sweet potatoes from 15 ppm to the LOD (0.01 ppm).
- Following the request received from Freshfel and a number of other stakeholders (Food Drink Europe, Peru, Brazil and Dominican Republic), the Commission requested EFSA to clarify technical aspects related to the peeling factor and variability factor for mangos. EFSA responded that there is no enough data provided for mangos by the manufacture of TBZ. Even when extrapolating the MRL from avocado and if taking into account the peeling factor and variability factor the one of avocado, the risk would still be existing (exceedance of ARfD).
- The discussion did not include the issue on sweet potatoes, as the data gaps are too big for finding a solution.
- All Member States agreed with EFSA's conclusions and views of the European Commission.
- Prior the meeting, the Dutch Ministry has sent its views to the Commission. The letter included:
  - consumer risk assessment that takes into account some information outside the scope of a routine authorization assessment => though the calculations it was suggested by the Dutch Authorities to establish a temporary MRL of 3 ppm, as the level of 3 ppm would unlikely present a consumer health concern. This suggestion did not receive support of other MSs.
  - for sweet potatoes the Dutch authorities did not identify additional information that would allow for a refinement of the risk assessment performed by EFSA.
- During the meeting the Commission and the MSs also discussed the issue that TBZ is used not only as a post-harvest treatment, but also in early stage of production (during flowering). Given this fact the extrapolation of the MRL from avocado to mango becomes impossible as different Good Agricultural Practices are applied on these two crops. This fact does not change anything, it's just an additional point that was discussed.

**In conclusion, the Commission did not propose any intermediate solution till import tolerances for these two crops are established by the manufacture.**

Additional comments from the Commission:

The only solution, in order to use TBZ on mangos and sweet potatoes, is to establish an import tolerance. In its commitment to the Commission, the manufacture has to submit the package of data for setting import tolerances early 2018.

The full summary of [the meeting can be found here](#). The part on Thiabendazole starts as of page 7.

As soon as Syngenta submits the data, the Commission could consider asking for a fast track evaluation. However this to be discussed in 2018.

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More about the issue of thiabendazole in mangos and sweet potatoes: Freshfel newsletter 8, 10 & 16.

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## **Active substances: MRL changes**

The European Commission published the following regulations regarding MRL changes:

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/983](#) as regards maximum residue levels for tricyclazole in or on certain products
- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2017/978](#) as regards maximum residue levels for fluopyram; hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), alpha-isomer; hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), beta-isomer; hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), sum

of isomers, except the gamma isomer; lindane (hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), gamma-isomer); nicotine and profenofos in or on certain products

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### **Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed - week 23**

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](#)
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## Nutrition & health

### **Council conclusions on halting childhood overweight and obesity**

The Council published the Council Conclusions to contribute towards halting the rise in Childhood Overweight and Obesity, after the Council meeting of 15 and 16 June. The conclusions are quite general, and do not specifically mention fruit and vegetable intake.

However, the conclusions emphasis towards the member states the need to have a cross-sectoral approach towards tackling childhood obesity. Furthermore it stresses the need to invest in prevention programmes to teach children (and parents) about healthy lifestyles, including in schools, but also outside of schools. More research is needed, as well as a reduction of exposure of children to marketing of foods high in fats, sugars and salts. Dietary guidelines should be developed, as well as guidelines on physical activity. Food improvement and food reformulation are also high on the agenda and considered part of the solution. Health in all policies is once more reinforced.

Furthermore, data on health and health indicators needs to be further improved to best judge the impact of certain measures. Childhood obesity prevention and action plans need to become a priority for member states as well as for the Commission. Toward the Commission, the recommendations included to better facilitate the exchange of best practices as well as to move towards product improvement initiatives. By the tone of these conclusions, there will probably be some impact with regard to the activities of the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

The full conclusions can be found attached below.

#### **Related document**

- [Council Conclusions on Childhood Obesity - 15&16 June 2017](#)
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### **Global F&V Newsletter focusing on food preferences**

Attached below is the latest Global Fruit and Vegetable Newsletter by Aprifel. This time the issue focuses on food preferences.

The articles included this time look a lot at genetics and the role of genes and external influences on behaviour.

- [Genetic and environmental influences both play a role in food preferences in adolescence](#)

- A genetic approach to understanding obesity: genotype and behavioural phenotype in the maintenance of child obesity
- Genetic and environmental influences on fruit and vegetable liking in adolescence

#### Related document

- [Global F&V Newsletter - June 2017](#)

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## Quality Policy

### Geographical indications

The European Commission has published a [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/987](#) entering a name in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications of French garlic "Ail violet de Cadours"

The Commission published a [publication](#) regarding the application for the quality mark as geographical indication of Italian pear 'Pera dell'Emilia Romagna'.

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## Trade Policy

### Nicaragua exceeds trigger volume for banana but no temporary suspension of preferential customs duty

The European Commission has evaluated the consequences of the exceedances of trigger volume to decide if a temporary suspension of preferential customs duty on imports of fresh bananas from Nicaragua should apply. Considering the limited impact of the volume from Nicaragua at this point and the limited fluctuation of market prices, the Commission is communicating through its implementing decision 2017/1104 that *the temporary suspension of preferential customs duty on imports of fresh bananas classified under heading 0803 00 19 of the European Union Combined Nomenclature and originating in Nicaragua is not appropriate.*

Find the full legal act [here](#).

The decision came into force with the date of publication, which has been the 21st of June 2017.

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### Commission plans to finalise Mercosur negotiations by the end of this year

Freshfel participated to a networking breakfast in the European Parliament, informing MEP's and their assistants on the diverging interest of the agricultural sector into the Mercosur negotiations. The meeting has been hosted by Celcaa – The European Liaison Committee on Agri-Food Trade and Copa-Cogeca representing the producer organisations. The meeting gave space to discussion on offensive as well as defensive interests. While for fruit and vegetables, but also the wine and the dairy industry are rather seeing chances, to further develop their trading relations, other industries such as sugar and meat are rather concerned with regard to opening tariff rate quotas and the full liberalization of their product. During the meeting present was Miguel Ceballos-Baron, a member of the cabinet of Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, who gave an overview on the current state of play on the negotiations. The Commission is keen to finalise the agreement until the end of this year. During the meeting once more it has been emphasized, that despite Mercosur-countries and in particular Brazil being growing destinations, SPS and technical barriers, and in particular lengthy market access procedures need to be tackled as soon as possible. During the meeting several MEP's have been present. Among them Mairead McGuinness (EPP Group, Vice-President of the EP), Eric Andrieu (S&D), Santiago Fisas-Ayxela (EPP), Franc Bogovic (EPP). The meeting has been hosted by MEP Daniel Caspary (EPP) and Sofia Ribeiro (EPP).

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## **China: Official WTO notification - list of products in need for an import license requirement**

Please find below the official WTO notification and list of products, for which an additional import license requirement will be binding from the 1st of October 2017 onward. Fresh fruit and vegetables are not concerned by this requirement, while certain processed and canned fruit and vegetables are concerned.

### **Related document**

- [New import license requirement for certain products to China](#)
- [WTO Notice](#)

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## **WTO notifications**

The report on the WTO notifications for the period of 12-26 June 2017 can be found enclosed in the section below.

### **Related document**

- [WTO notifications](#)

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## Other

### **Tomatoes market prices**

You will find below the latest tomatoes market report.

You will also find below the documents used for the last Group of Experts of COMmission on tomatoes.

### **Related document**

- [Weekly tomatoes report](#)
- [Overview market from St Charles International](#)
- [Processed tomatoes overview](#)
- [Trade perspective and trend from Commission](#)
- [Statistical documents Commission](#)

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