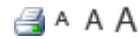




Freshfel Newsletter 25 - 10/07/2017



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Changes at the Freshfel Secretariat

As was mentioned during the Freshfel Annual Event of the 20th of June, Daphne will be leaving the Freshfel office this Wednesday (12 July). She will be replaced by Ms Nicola Pisano, who joined the Freshfel team as the new Communications Officer and Policy Advisor last week. Nicola, who is replacing Daphne, will be taking on all of Daphne's work for Freshfel. Nicola previously worked in Brussels at the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) for two years, first as a trainee and subsequently as CEJA's Communications and Project Assistant. Nicola is an Australian/Italian national with a B.Sc. Honours in Urban and Regional Planning and a Diploma in Modern Languages (French). If you would like to reach Nicola, please email her at nicola@Freshfel.org

Daphne will still remain partly involved in the agricultural sector, but will be moving to Germany for her new position. If you would like to stay in touch with Daphne, the easiest would be to get in touch with her via LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daphne-van-doorn>

Evaluation and fitness check roadmap on marketing standards

Last week the European Commission, DG AGRI has published an evaluation and fitness check roadmap regarding the evaluation of marketing standards (contained in the CMO Regulation, the "Breakfast directives" and CMO secondary legislation).

Purpose:

The reformed Single Common Market Organisation, operational since 2014, includes marketing standards by sectors or products. Those standards are a part of the agricultural product quality policy. Their purpose is to take into account the expectations of consumers and to contribute to the improvement of the economic conditions for the production and marketing of agricultural products and their quality.

The objective and scope of marketing standards related to agricultural product quality policy, has been defined as follows: "Marketing standards should apply to enable the market to be easily supplied with products of a standardised and satisfactory quality, and in particular should relate to technical definitions, classification, presentation, marking and labelling, packaging, production method, conservation, storage, transport, related administrative documents, certification and time limits, restrictions of use and disposal."

Marketing standards established by the so called "Breakfast Directives" have been justified by the fact that differences between national laws could lead to unfair competition, mislead consumers, and thereby have a direct adverse effect on the establishment and functioning of the common market.

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine to what extent the EU marketing standards for food products:

- are delivering to achieve the fixed objectives;
- are useful in this sense for the stakeholders (consumers, producers, traders, packers, retailers).

The evaluation should also assess the need and direction of changes in order to improve the application of the marketing standards.

The evaluation will examine the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of marketing standards in order to:

- Support the management of the measures related to marketing standards policy;
- Enhance accountability; and

- Improve the application of this policy

The results of the evaluation might serve as a basis for the reflection on the need for regulatory changes related to marketing standards.

Subject area:

Among different marketing standards, the **regulations related to fresh fruit and vegetables are also within the scope of the evaluation** – Commission Implementing Regulation 543/2011 and Regulation 1169/2011.

Issues to be examined:

The following aspects need to be addressed during the evaluation:

Effectiveness

To what extent the current framework of marketing standards has been successful in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of quality policy by:

- Contributing to give a fair return to farmers and producers reflecting the agricultural product quality;
- Helping the consumers to receive reliable information on agricultural product characteristics and farming attributes.

To what extent the current framework of marketing standards has been successful in achieving the objectives of the marketing standards policy:

- Contributing to improve the economic conditions for production and marketing, in particular creating a level playing field for producers and operators;
- Contributing to improve the quality of such products in the interest of producers, traders and consumers;
- Meeting the expectations of consumers of receiving adequate and transparent information as a product description tool;
- Enabling the market to be easily supplied with products of a standardised and satisfactory quality.

Has the fact of replacing specific marketing standards for 26 types of fresh fruit and vegetables by a general marketing standard altered the effectiveness of the policy? If yes, in which way?

Efficiency

To what extent the following incurred costs are justifiable and proportionate to the benefits achieved:

- Cost and usefulness of labelling requirements;
- Cost of compliance with marketing standards for Member States and for food business operators.

Coherence

To what extent the various instruments of Marketing Standards policy provide for an internally coherent intervention?

To what extent are they coherent with other EU rules (e.g. EU rules on food safety, geographical indications or organic products)?

To what extent are EU instruments coherent with international marketing standards (Codex, UNECE, etc) as well as with private marketing standards?

Relevance

To what extent the existing marketing standards framework corresponds to the actual needs of stakeholders?

European added value

To what extent separate EU Marketing Standards are justifiable and provide added value in addition to international marketing standards (Codex, UNECE, etc) and the applicable private standards?

Are public standards a pre-condition for the system of applicable private standards?

The above aspects might be further detailed in the methodology to be prepared by the evaluators for this assignment.

Frehfel members are invited to comment on the current framework of the marketing standards (reg. 543/2011 & reg. 1169/2011) on the basis of above provided list of issues to be targeted, by 21 July 2017 (NOT later) to egle@freshfel.org.

The link to the roadmap: [here](#)

In March 2017, Freshfel has sent a letter to the European Commission with some suggestions how to improve the regulation 543/2011. The paper with the suggestions could be found enclosed below in the attachments.

This consultation is a great chance for the sector to comment on all aspect related to the regulations on labelling and marketing.

Related document

- [FReshfel letter on marketing standards](#)

Freshfel action points following Freshfel Food Quality WG

In May 2017, the Freshfel Food Quality WG took place. The following topics were discussed:

- Activities of Agri-food Chain Round Table for Plant Protection
- Plant protection products, food additives, contaminants & biocidal products
- Plant health
- Increased import controls
- Update on Euromix project: Participants to the presentation are requested to fill in the [Stakeholders Survey](#) by end of July.

The action points now can be found in the attachments below.

Related document

- [Freshfel Food Quality meeting - presentation](#)
- [Action points meeting](#)

World of Food Mumbai: Possibility of free participation for Freshel members at EU pavilion and EU Delegation program

The EU Delegation to India will be hosting the EU pavilion during the Annapoorna World of Food in Mumbai from the 14th to 16th of September 2017. Freshfel is among the selected companies to participate with a small stand as well at the program including workshops on food safety and customs procedures as well as several networking opportunities.

Freshfel members are invited to join the EU pavilion with their own companies. There are 2-5 stands available for fruit and vegetable companies and associations interested in trading with India .Participation at the fair and stands

including shipping will be sponsored by the EU Delegation. Only travel and accommodation need to be taken over. See attached the full program.

In case of interest please get back to nelli@freshfel.org. As the measures for the stand as well as participants need to be provided as soon as possible, please kindly give me an indication of interest until the end of this week, 14th of July 2017. In case of questions do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Related document

- [Program Annapoorna World of Food Mumbai](#)

Events

Freshfel Annual Event follow up - Barilla papers

During the Freshfel Annual Event, several papers were discussed by Ms Ludovica Principato from the Barilla Foundation. These were also distributed in some of the participant bags. However, there were not enough for all of the participants, so here you can download both of the papers.

Double Pyramid <https://www.barillacfn.com/m/publications/doublepyramid2016-more-sustainable-future-depends-on-us.pdf>

Food Sustainability Index <https://www.barillacfn.com/m/publications/bcfn-fixingfood>.

Agricultural Policy

CAP conference: outcomes Public Consultation

On 7 July 2017, the European Commission presented the outcomes of the Public Consultation on the Modernisation and Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy. The consultation was online for 3 months, from 2 February until 2 May 2017 and generated a vast amount of interest, with 322.916 responses. However, this number was analysed as following: 63.034 were duplicates and 121.815 answers came from public campaigns such as the Living Land Campaign. The rest consisted of 15.8% from professional organisations and 84.2% of individuals, whether involved in farming or not. Most of the contributions came from Germany.

The most important challenges were identified as being achieving a fair standard of living for farmers, dealing with pressures on the environment and climate change, and tackling the lack of jobs and growth. Interesting observation was that the individuals not involved in farming in general estimate the CAP being less capable of addressing those challenges. Main problems and drivers were environmental pollution, bureaucracy, and large industry and lobbying. Greening and application procedures were generally identified as the most burdensome elements of the CAP. Its objectives were identified as being boosting investment and growth, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and strengthening the EU Single Market. Below you can find more on the breakdown between the different groups and for what a future CAP should deliver on below.

The position papers submitted by organisations (426) and individuals (267) were also analysed, with most contributions coming from Germany again. Overall, the economic stakeholders seemed to embed the CAP in a more general view of today's challenges than the non-economic stakeholders and public authorities. More on the analysis of the position papers can be found in the presentation below.

More information on the conference itself and on the presentations made during the day can be found on the event's [website](#). The communication on the simplification and modernisation of the CAP will follow towards the end of this year - beginning of next year.

Related document

- [Analysis Position Papers](#)
- [Analysis Questionnaire answers](#)

Food Safety

Endocrine disruptors: endorsed criteria by EU MSs

The EU Member State experts endorsed scientific criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors in the field of plant protection products - chemicals that can interfere with the hormone system of animals and humans - at an extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee last week (July 4).

The endorsed criteria concerning substances falling within the plant protection products legislation are based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition. They identify known and presumed endocrine disruptors. They also specify that the identification of an endocrine disruptor should be carried out by taking into account all relevant scientific evidence including animal, in-vitro or in-silico studies, and using a weight of evidence-based approach. The Commission intends to adopt the same criteria for biocides. This is important because the properties which make a substance an endocrine disruptor do not depend on the use of the substance.

The Commission [text](#) foresees that the Commission will present in due time an assessment of the criteria which will also cover the derogation for growth regulators in the light of experience gained.

The criteria will apply after a short transitional period of six months during which the European Chemicals Agency and the European Food Safety Authority - mandated by the Commission - will be finalising a joint guidance document for the implementation of the criteria. An outline was published on 20 December 2016 and a draft guidance document will be available for public consultation in autumn.

The criteria will apply also to the on-going procedures reassessing the substances.

Criteria for endocrine disrupting properties was voted as follows:
For: EE, IE, ES, MT, NL, RO, FI, BG, EL, FR, HR, IT, CY, LT, LU, AT, PT, DE, BE, SI & SK
Against: CZ, DK & SE
Abstain: LV, HU, PL & UK

For more information:

- DG Santé press release: [here](#)
- Frequently asked questions: [here](#)

DG Santé Standing Committee meeting on pesticides residues

On 12-13 June, a Standing Committee meeting on Pesticides Residues of DG Santé took place. At the meeting various topics were discussed. The summary of topics related to the fresh produce sector can be found below:

Update on chlorate

The Commission informed that a general multi-disciplinary action plan for reducing the dietary exposure to chlorate and for resolving the systemic non-compliance with the pesticides MRLs was presented on 23 May 2017 for endorsement to the meeting of heads of national food safety agencies (HoA) in Oslo. The HoA will provide their coordinated point of view on this action plan by September 2017. Once the general way forward will have been decided, discussions on specific measures for the different policy areas will be conducted in the relevant sections of the SC PAFF.

The main action points of proposed plan are:

- Recommendations on good food hygiene practices in order to reduce chlorate residues in food,
- Reducing chlorate residues in drinking water by e.g. setting an EU limit for chlorate in drinking water,
- Dietary recommendations at national level for children to reduce the exposure to chlorate and to limit its impact on the thyroid,
- The setting of MRLs for chlorate in regular food at more realistic levels and based on occurrence data.

Furthermore the Commission informed the Member States of a meeting it had with the Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) on chlorate residues in drinking water and on the possibilities for including a limit for chlorate in the EU drinking water parameters.

A Member State questioned the appropriateness of the meeting of HoA for discussing this plan, as the participants are risk assessors and the decision-making power lies with the national ministries.

The Commission explained that a forum was chosen, which has an overview on all the concerned policy fields, in order to get an indication of the general way forward. The HoA will consult all the relevant parties at a national level. However, the decisions on the specific measures for the different policy fields will be taken by the risk managers in the relevant sections of the SC PAFF. The action plan will be shared with Member States via internal restricted database - CIRCABC. Furthermore a communication for the public will be made available on the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG Santé) website.

A Member State enquired whether a change of the definition of 'pesticide residue' is being considered. The Commission referred to the ongoing REFIT evaluation of the existing pesticides legal framework, in which this definition will also be evaluated. However, a possible change of the definition, if appropriate, would be a long term process. On the short term it is the intention to find a solution for the systemic non-compliance of chlorate residues in food with the pesticides MRLs.

Requests for new extrapolations

The Commission received a request to introduce the extrapolation from apples to kakis in the Extrapolation Guidance Document. Five Member States and EFSA have expressed support for this extrapolation.

The Commission explained that a comprehensive update of the Extrapolation Guidance document (last updated in September 2016) is not planned in the near future. However single new extrapolations could be, as in this case, evaluated and discussed case by case by the Committee and added to the document if agreed. The Committee agreed on this procedure.

The Commission invited the Committee also to decide whether to extend the new extrapolation from pears to kakis (given that extrapolation from apples to pears is always possible) and vice versa.

Two Member States supported the extrapolations also from pears to kakis. One Member State clarified that the extrapolation in the reverse direction, from kaki to apple/pears, is not appropriate. The Extrapolation Guidance Document will be updated introducing the extrapolation from apple and /or pears to kakis, but not vice versa, and published on the SANTE website as revision 10.3.

Another Member States noted that as a consequence of the on-going revision of the CODEX crops classification system, many more extrapolations would need to be introduced, in order to align the EU Extrapolation Guidance Document to the CODEX extrapolations. The Commission confirmed that this will be done once the whole CODEX classification review will be finalised.

Information on substances falling under the hazard based criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and follow up on MRL side

The Commission recalled the two main possible approaches regarding the maintenance of current import tolerances (ITs) and the setting of new ITs for active substances falling under the hazard based criteria (cut-off criteria) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009:

1. current MRLs could be maintained in order to preserve the current ITs and IT requests handled on the basis of the usual risk assessment procedures required by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, or;
2. MRLs could be lowered to the limit of detection (LOD) and new IT requests refused.

The Commission informed the Committee that its Legal Service provided advice, which favoured the lowering to the LOD and the refusal of new ITs (approach (2)) only when this lowering of LODs is the consequence of an EU legal act, such as a Commission implementing Regulation non-renewing the approval of an active substance and setting out the substance's hazard classification as a reason for the non-renewal. The Legal Service advised that in this case the rejection should be made by the rapporteur Member State upon receipt of the IT request. In other cases, when the active substance is falling under the cut-off criteria but no EU legal act is available, the Legal Service advises to follow the standard risk assessment procedure. This is the case, for example, for active substances whose approval period has elapsed but no non-renewal procedure has been initiated (no dossier submitted).

Member States' comments were diverse. Some Member States voiced concerns regarding their responsibility in rejecting IT requests without risk assessment, pointing that such rejections could be legally challenged and were in favour to systematically prepare an evaluation report, go through an EFSA reasoned opinion and take a decision at EU level. It was also recognised that approach 2 would lead to more EU reservations on CXLs.

Planned evaluations of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 – State of play

The Commission informed the Committee that the process to select the contractor who should perform the independent external study was finalised. The kick-off meeting with the contractor is scheduled for 3 July 2017.

A dedicated website has been created for the evaluation: http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/refit_en.

In the framework of the evaluation a comprehensive consultation of all relevant stakeholders will be conducted. Member States will be consulted via an online survey, followed by in-depth interviews as well as focus groups.

The Commission informed about other consultations foreseen for the evaluation. An open public consultation being open for three months during autumn 2017 with the aim to collect the views from citizens and consumers, a survey targeting stakeholders, and a survey specifically targeting Small and Medium Enterprises.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation (EU) No .../... amending Annexes II, III, IV and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain FZB24, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strain MBI 600, *Beauveria bassiana* strain NPP111B005, *Beauveria bassiana* strain 147, clayed charcoal, cyantraniliprole, dichlorprop, ethephon, etridiazole, flonicamid, fluazifop-P, hydrogen peroxide, metaldehyde, penconazole, spinetoram, tau-fluvalinate and *Urtica* spp. in or on certain products

The Commission introduced the draft and presented its contents. Several MRL applications were submitted under Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005:

- **dichlorprop-P** for the use on citrus fruits;
- **ethephon** for the use on Japanese persimmons;
- **etridiazole** for the use on cucurbits with edible peel;
- **flonicamid** for the use on apricots, head cabbage, beans and peas (with pods);
- **fluazifop-P** for the use on carrots and courgettes;
- **metaldehyde** for the use on leeks;
- **penconazole** for the use on table grapes;
- **spinetoram** for the use on cherries, cane fruit, "other small fruits and berries"; "lettuces and salad plants", "spinaches and similar leaves", "herbs and edible flowers", leeks and herbal infusions from leaves and herbs;
- **tau-fluvalinate** for the use on citrus fruits;

More information regarding proposals to increase the MRLs on above mentioned products could be found at the weekly Freshfel overview on MRL monitoring.

The Commission initially proposed to include four microorganisms in Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. However, *Beauveria bassiana* strain NPP111B005 and *Beauveria bassiana* strain 147 were withdrawn from the draft measure as the two substances have been approved on the basis of uses on non-edible crops. Further discussion is needed on the appropriateness to include these substances in Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. One Member State raised concerns as regards the two *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* strains.

Cyantraniliprole was withdrawn from the measure as there is currently not enough information provided in the residue section of the conclusion on the peer review of the active substance.

The draft measure provides for the inclusion of three basic substances in Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 (i.e. clayed charcoal, hydrogen peroxide and *Urtica* spp.).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

Link to the official minutes of DG Sante:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/sc_phyto_20170612_ppr_sum.pdf

Freshfel MRL monitoring initiative, week 27

In order to facilitate the monitoring of MRL changes in fresh produce food categories, Freshfel launched the MRL monitoring initiative. Freshfel compiled an overview of requests/mandates sent to EFSA for the setting of MRLs or re-evaluation of existing MRLs, covering the period: 1 January 2015 - present. The overview can be found enclosed in the attachments.

On a weekly basis Freshfel publishes an updated overview based on submitted new mandates to EFSA and published opinions during that week.

Publications of week 26 relate to:

-review and modifications of existing MRLs:

Modification of the existing maximum residue levels for fluazifop-P in various products of plant and animal origin - [EFSA-Q-2016-00500](#)

-recent publications related to settings of new MRLs:

-

Other relevant publications:

-

Related document

- [MRL monitoring: 1 January 2015 - week 26, 2017](#)
-

Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed - week 27

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](#)
-

Plant Health Policy

Revision of the Annexes of Directive 2000/29

The European Commission is still busy finalizing the translation of the annexes of directives 2000/29, with particular relevance for the sector in regard to the following harmful organisms:

- Bacteria cockerelli (potato psyllid)
- Keiferia lycopersicella (tomato pinworm)
- Thaumatotibia leucotreta (FCM)
- CBS and Citrus canker

It is still expected that the new implementing act amending the annexes will be published in the in the course of July. This will open a 5 months period for facilitating the implementation of the new provisions and secure compliance. After this 5 months "grace" period , the text will come into force on the 1st day of the following month. It is therefore likely that the coming into force of the new provision will be on 1st January 2018.

Europhyt -June report

The latest monthly report on interceptions can be viewed from the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/ph_biosec_europhyt-interceptions-2017-06.pdf

Highlights from the months of June include a/o:

- Bangladesh 2 intercetions on mangoes (tephritidae). The country is under own monitoring in close coordination with EC-COM
- Brazeil 2 interceptions on canker for citrus
- Burkina Faso 8 interceptions on mangoes (tephritidae)
- Dominican Republic : 17 interceptions (various products and various thrips-tephritidae)
- Ivory Coast: 17 interceptions on mangoes (tephritidae). This fllows already 15 interceptions in May.
- Mali: 9 interceptions for mangoes (tephritidae) following already 10 interceptions for April and May
- South Africa: 5 interception on citrus (FCM)
- Uganda : 6 interceptions on capsicum (FCM)

Sustainability

Call for contributions to coolingEU Newsletter

The coolingEU forum is a platform for stakeholders to advocate for a more efficient and cleaner cooling supply. Freshfel is a member of the forum, supporting the promotion of sustainable cooling methods throughout the fruit and vegetable supply chain.

The second coolingEU Newsletter will published this Wednesday 12th July!

If you would like to contribute to the next coolingEU Newsletter, for example with an article on your latest cooling developments, please email your contributions to nicola@freshfel.org by 17:00 11th July.

To find out more about coolingEU, read the latest coolingEU Communication Paper visit the [coolingEU website](#) or email nicola@freshfel.org

Related document

- [coolingEU Communication Paper](#)

Trade Policy

SPS chapter in Economic Partnership Agreement between EU & Japan reconfirms basic principles

During an extraordinary EU-Japan at the 6th of July, a [political agreement in principle](#) has been reached among both [parties](#). The Economic Partnership Agreement and the Strategic Partnership Agreement has been negotiated more than ten years. *"Today we agreed in principle on a future Economic Partnership Agreement. The depth of this agreement goes beyond free trade. Its impact goes far beyond our shores. It makes a statement about the future of open and fair trade in today's world. It sets the standard for others,"* said the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**. *"As far as we are concerned, there is no protection in protectionism. Only by working together will we be able to set global standards when it comes to safety, environmental or consumer protection."*

In particular negotiations on agriculture and SPS has been proven difficult. Improvements have been reached in particular for tariff cuts on wine, pork, beef, cheese as well as several quotas. The tariff rate schedule as well as tariff rates on fruit and vegetables are not yet available. The SPS chapter is formulated in a solid manner, highlighting the IPPC as standard setting body with regard to pest status, reinforces the call to only request measures which ensure the absence of regulated pests and leaves the choice of measures in case of alternatives to the importer. Also an agreement in principle on equivalence of SPS measures has been reached with the need to prove. The negotiators agreed on the establishment and exchange of a quarantine pest list. The agreement is still under negotiations and last minute changes might occur.

Find all information available [here](#).

Handbook for EU Exporters of plant and plant products into India

Freshfel has received the final Handbook for EU Exporters of plant and plant products into India. The handbook includes market access procedures and export conditions in detail and allows a good understanding on the f&v market in India. Freshfel members have contributed to the final outcome of the book and the input and experience has been taken up within the book. The handbook is also available on the the website of [CHAFEA](#). DG Trade is committed to improve market access for f&v to India significantly, as it shows continued effort in the work to find alternatives for the obstacle of methyl bromide fumigation.

Related document

- [Handbook for EU Exporters of plant and plant products into India](#)

CETA provisional application on 21 September 2017

The implementation date has been agreed in the [margins of the G20 summit in Hamburg](#), where last implementation measures such as the management of the TRQ on cheese exports could be finalised. Canadian and European leaders renewed their commitment to this agreement in a joint statement, highlighting the importance as a new chapter for both, EU and Canada. The application is limited to the trade part only, as a couple of sensitive areas need to be ratified by the parliaments of all MS.

The press release is available [here](#).

Mercosur Negotiations: Results 3rd round of negotiations

The third round of negotiations among the EU and the Mercosur countries took place from the 3rd to the 7th of July. In the margins of the negotiations also a Civil Dialogue briefing for the interested stakeholders took place. Next to Sandra Gallina, Chief negotiator for the EU, the chief negotiations of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay attended the meeting and were available for questions. The aim is to announce the deal in the margins of the 11th WTO Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires in the week of the 11th to 14th of December 2017. All negotiators agreed, that expectations must remain "realistic, to find a balanced agreement taking into account the sensitive issues on certain agricultural goods. Chief negotiator Sandra Gallina once more acknowledged the sensitivity for areas such as beef and ethanol at European side. The negotiations will be intensified in the 2nd half of this year with three rounds already scheduled (4-8 September, 2-6 October, 6-10 November). While agreement or close to agreement has been reached on topics such as trade facilitation, customs cooperation, trade defence and dispute settlement, chapters on SPS and technical barriers to trade are still in discussion. All negotiators underlined that already substantial improvements have been reached in both areas.

Related document

- [/2017/Newsletter_/NL_25/EU-Japan_trade_deal_summary.pdf](#)

EU and New Zealand announce Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Custom matters

EU and New Zealand have agreed on an Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom matters. This comes in the fairway of an upcoming mandate on future FTA negotiations, where the mandate from the Council is awaited in the 2nd term of this year. The agreement aims to create a more secure and trade-friendly environment and better exchange among the respective customs authorities.

WTO notifications

The report on the WTO notifications for the period of 3-10 July 2017 can be found enclosed in the section below.

Related document

- [WTO notifications](#)

Research and Innovation

Food Waste Challenge results

FoodWIN, the Food Waste Innovation Network organised a Food Waste Challenge for apples and pears, in light of the Russian embargo and the overall interest and initiatives to reduce food waste. This event was organised within the Innovation Trajectories framework to combat food waste of which more events will be organised in the upcoming years. [Here](#) you can find the results of the brainstorming (unfortunately only in Dutch).

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, Eglé Baecke-Eimontaité, Nelli Hajdu, Helene Deruwe or Nicola Pisano 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 • www.freshfel.org • www.enjoyfresh.eu • www.kidsenjoyfresh.eu • www.freshquality.eu

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