

Brussels, 26 February 2025

New Chair of PROFEL Dried Vegetables Group

At this week's annual meeting of PROFEL's Dried Vegetables Group, members elected **Mr Pietro Gemma** as the new Chairman of the Group. Mr Gemma, Vice-President of Italian dried vegetable company [IDA srl](#), was nominated by PROFEL member association ANICAV.

Mr Gemma takes over from longstanding French Chairman Luc Darbonne from PROFEL member association FIAC, who for many years chaired the group and shaped its agenda. Participants sincerely thanked Mr Darbonne for his commitment to the sector over all these years, and for representing dehydrated vegetables on the Board of PROFEL.

The new Chair will be supported by Vice-Chair Michael Lettenbichler from German company [R. Steinicke GmbH](#). At its meeting, the group stressed the need for a wider acknowledgement of the dried vegetable sector's specificities and the role it plays towards food security. While the sector is fully committed to play its part in the transition towards sustainable food systems, participants reiterated the importance of high-quality EU grown raw materials for the sector's viability.

The EU's dried vegetables sector is a consolidated sector with approximately 30 factories located in France, Spain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary and Poland, mostly family-owned SMEs. The EU's production of dried vegetables is approximately 55.000 tons of dried products, equivalent to 400.000 tons of raw material.

PROFEL(Europe) is the European Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries, representing around 400 companies in 12 European countries, producing canned vegetables, frozen vegetables, dehydrated vegetables, canned fruit, jams and fruit preserves and frozen fruit. The members of PROFEL employ more than 80.000 people.

As the recognized voice of the fruit and vegetable preservers, PROFEL represents the sector at EU level and promotes an understanding of the industry towards all stakeholders, aligns the industry on its positions, and prepares the sector and its members for changes. PROFEL's calls on decision makers to support the industry in the transition to sustainable and resilient food systems, making the sector future proof and supporting its path to climate change adaptation link to [PROFEL Keys Asks for the new EU Mandate](#).

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