

Preserved Fruit & Vegetables – sustainable, healthy and essential

Frozen, canned and dried vegetables, canned and frozen fruit, jams, fruit preserves and compotes hold important answers to Europe's food challenges:

- **Sustainable** – plant-based foods with one of the lowest CO2 footprints, sustainably produced at farm and at factory level (Read [PROFEL's Sustainability Brochure](#))
- **Healthy** – locked-in vitamins, antioxidants & dietary fibre, from fresh produce grown and harvested in the fields near to the factories (Read [PROFEL's study](#))
- **Convenient** – quick and easy way to increase daily intake of healthy pure plant foods
- **Available** – year-round offering a vast range of nutritious products at affordable prices
- **Minimal Food Waste** – long shelf-life & portionable
- **Food Security** – storage-safe healthy foods which can be called upon in times of crisis

What's at stake: 10 years of major weather events, the loss of many crucial plant protection products, increased production costs and regulatory uncertainty has taken its toll. The sector needs security of supply of EU grown fruit and vegetables and a favourable regulatory and trade policy environment to remain viable and competitive.

PROFEL calls for decision makers to support one of the healthiest & most sustainable agri-food sectors with:

A. Policies that deliver on Climate Change Adaptation - European fruit and vegetable crop yields have been in decline for 10 years, due to the:

1. **Impact of droughts and floods and the lack of a consistent water policy.** A joined-up, European policy is urgently needed for water storage, irrigation, and for flood prevention. In case of drought, priority for irrigation should be given to fruit and vegetables growers, as an essential sector.
2. **Disappearance of key Plant Protection Products (PPPs)** compounded by increasing pest and disease pressure and the acute need for new crop protection tools and exceptional measures for fruit & vegetables.
3. **Farm and factory labour shortages:** flexible migration legislation to harvest and process fruits and vegetables on time.

B. Creating an enabling legislative framework that is consistent, proportionate, avoids unnecessary bureaucracy, considers the entire food chain, ensures coherence across policies, recognises the specificities of our sector, and provides:

1. **Support for research, innovation and investments** to optimise industrial performance and future-proof an EU-based sector.
2. **Regulatory certainty** with workable timescales for science-based legislation built on thorough and high-quality impact assessments.
3. **A strong Single Market**, with uniform implementation of EU food and environmental legislation to avoid policy fragmentation and re-nationalisation.
4. **Recognition of the contribution preserved fruit and vegetables** make to healthy and sustainable diets, by supporting increased fruit and vegetable consumption, thereby benefitting everyone.

C. A Trade Policy that secures a level playing field and allows EU producers to remain competitive:

1. **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** that include reciprocity for production, social and environmental standards, and these standards must be enforced.
2. **Efficient and accessible trade defence instruments.**

PROFEL represents 400+ companies in 11 European countries as the voice of the European preservers of fruit and vegetables. Our sector provides employment for 80,000+ people, both direct and indirect jobs, mostly in rural areas. The estimated collective turnover for the sector is €22 billion.



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