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**Bi-annual newsletter from the European Association of Fruit & Vegetable Processors**

6 DEC 2013

#### Editorial:

Welcome to the second issue of the PROFEL NEWSLETTER, providing an at-a-glance overview of EU dossiers of relevance to the processed fruit and vegetables sector.

I would like to make use of this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm welcome, having taken over as PROFEL Secretary General from Susanne Meyer since July. These first months have been very inspiring and I look forward to an active and enriching cooperation in 2014.

Kind regards,

Aline Rutsaert



#### PROFEL GA Madrid

PROFEL held its 2013 General Assembly on 27 and 28 June in Madrid. Special thanks to the Spanish Association FENAVAL for the excellent organization of the General Assembly and the memorable gala dinner at the Royal

Theater. Meeting reports and pictures are available on the PROFEL dms: [M.GA/13/004](http://M.GA/13/004).

The 2014 General Assembly will take place on 26 and 27 June 2014, in Helsinki, Finland.



#### CAP Reform

The Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy has reached its final phase. Following the political agreement on 26 June, the European Parliament adopted the negotiated texts in Plenary on 20 November ([CAP/13/008](http://CAP/13/008)). The Council is expected to approve the texts at its meeting in December.

Even though the basic texts have been finalized, the work is not done. Implementing and delegated acts will need to be prepared to clarify the application of numerous articles.

The Commission's objective is to finalise these acts as early as possible, so that the European Parliament can start scrutinizing the texts of the delegated acts before the Parliament's recess period in March 2014. Full entry into force of the CAP is planned for 2015, with the Single CMO applying as of 2014. PROFEL will organize a meeting on the implementation of the CAP reform in early 2014, to exchange information on the implementation of measures for which Member States are responsible.

## EU Promotion Policy

On 22 November the European Commission published the draft reform of the information and promotion policy for European agricultural and food products ([NS/13/004](#)). The European aid budget for information and promotion initiatives will increase significantly from EUR 61 million in the 2013 budget to EUR 200 million in 2020. Amongst other programmes of PROFEL members, the last promotion campaign on canned and frozen vegetables in Belgium, NL and France has been carried out in the framework of this policy. As of 2014 PROFEL will participate in the Advisory Group on Promotion.

## CMO Fruit and Vegetables

In 2012 PROFEL contributed to the public consultation on the next reform of the CMO F&V ([CMO F&V/12/008](#)). The European Commission will present a report to the European Parliament and Council on the CMO before 31 December 2013. At the Advisory Group F&V in October, sectors were informed that this report will not yet be accompanied by legislative proposals for a reform, contrary to previous expectations.

## Court judgment on Value of Marketed Production

Proceedings continue following the [judgment of the European Court of Justice](#) of 30 May 2013 on the determination of the Value of Marketed Production (VPM), as [3 appeals](#) have been made.

## Trade Dossiers

Negotiations between the *EU and USA* continue, following a short break due to the US shutdown in October. PROFEL has communicated its position ahead of the start of negotiations in July ([Trade/13/011](#)).

On 28 October PROFEL had follow-up meetings with the European Commission regarding export problems with *Russia* ([Trade/13/028](#)) and trade negotiations with *South Africa* ([Trade/13/029](#)).

A request for safeguard measures on canned fruit has been issued by *Australia* in July. PROFEL met with the European Commission and submitted comments on the initiation of the procedures ([Trade/13/015](#)) and on the accelerated report ([Trade/13/025](#)). The final report will be published before 21 December.

Following the reform of the *Generalised Scheme of Preferences* import duties for products from several countries will increase as of 2014 or 2015, depending on whether the product falls under the scope of Regulation 1213/2012 or is imported from a country which will lose its status as GSP beneficiary country as of 2015. An explanatory note on the changes and products affected is available on the dms ([Trade/13/030](#)).

## European Parliament

In the context of PROFEL's outreach to the European Parliament, PROFEL had 2 meetings this year with Mr Dantin (AGRI, FR) and one with Mr De Castro (Chair AGRI, IT). Contacts have been established with MEP assistants and with the office of Ms Lulling (AGRI, LUX), responsible for the Intergroup on Viticulture, Fruit and Vegetables and Mr Dess (AGRI&INTA, DE).

## PROFEL Meetings

PROFEL's biannual product group meetings took place on 29&30 October in Brussels. Reports are available on the dms ([M.Fruit/13/009-011](#), [M.Veg/13/005](#), [M.TLC/13/006](#)). The Dried Vegetables Group had its annual meeting on 21 November in Frankfurt ([M.Veg/13/006](#)).

### « In short »:

- **EU-Peru-Colombia:** Following the application of the EU's trade agreement with Peru, the agreement with Colombia now also entered into force. Trade barriers between the EU and Colombia have been lifted as of 1 August 2013 ([Trade/13/017](#)).
- **EU-Canada:** On 18 October the EU and Canada have reached an agreement on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Entry into force is expected for 2015 ([Trade/13/027](#)).
- **EU-Singapore:** Following the conclusion of the EU-Singapore FTA negotiations in December 2012, the full text of the trade agreement has been released. The text is available on the DG Trade [Website](#).



## Additives Fruit Spreads

In 2012, PROFEL submitted to the European Commission a request to allow certain additives in fruit spreads ([TLC.Additives/12/005](#)). After having put on hold the request on aspartame-derived additives awaiting the EFSA opinion on aspartame, the requested amendments have been published in Regulation 913/2013 regarding the use of sweeteners in certain fruit or vegetable spreads. The Regulation entered into force on the 13 October ([TLC.Additives/13/013](#)). We would like to thank again the Task Manager Werner Koch for the support, which has led to a successful conclusion of the dossier.

## Specialty Crops

Together with the Food Chain Roundtable partners (COPA-COGECA, ECPA, FRESHFEL and traders associations), PROFEL continues its efforts in securing the needed funding for specialty crops. On 3 December 2013 a lunchtime event has been organized by the Food-Chain partners at the European Parliament ([TLC.Pes/13/018](#)).

PROFEL President Jean-Bernard Bonduelle gave a presentation on the negative impact that the lack of proper crop protection has on the vegetable processing industries.

## Bisphenol A

PROFEL, together with FoodDrinkEurope and Partners of the Value Chain partners had several meetings with the European Commission, up to Cabinet level ([TLC.Cont/13/024](#)) before Summer, to address the distortive effects of the French draft labeling decree. The decree lays out the conditions for a health warning to be placed on all BPA-based food packaging and objects coming in direct contact with food and marketed to the final consumer. Following the detailed opinions from the European Commission and several Member States, the standstill period for the decree was extended until the 4th of November. The French authorities now have to reply to the observations made. At present there is no view on

the timing for a reply.

In July EFSA published the draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of BPA in foodstuffs - exposure assessment ([TLC.Cont/13/030](#)). The final adoption of the EFSA full risk assessment is expected for 2014.

## Slovak TRIS notification

Slovakia presented in August a legislative proposal on Processed Fruit and Vegetables, containing several provisions which would go beyond the European legislation and common practices. PROFEL has submitted its observations to the European Commission ahead of the end of the standstill period ([TLC.Misc/13/016](#)). Two Member States have made comments on the draft legislation, and the European Commission has issued a detailed opinion, which extends the standstill period until 27 February 2014. Slovakia will need to reply to the observations made by Member States and the European Commission.



## AGENDA

- **PROFEL CAP Reform Meeting:** early 2014, date to be confirmed in Brussels
- **Technical and Legislation Committee Meeting:** 22 April 2014 morning in Brussels
- **Canned & Frozen Vegetable Group meeting:** 22 April 2014 early afternoon in Brussels
- **Fruit Product Groups Meetings:** 26 June 2014 in Finland
- **Executive Committee Meeting:** 26 June 2014 in Finland
- **General Assembly:** 27 June 2014 in Finland
- **Dried Vegetables Group Meeting:** 22 November 2014 in Brussels

