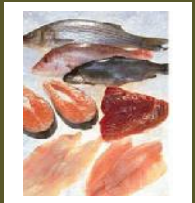




European Federation of the Trade in
Dried Fruit, Edible Nuts, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Processed
Fishery Products, Spices, Honey and Similar Foodstuffs



ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2010 – JUNE 2011



- Founded in 1960, FRUCOM is the official representation of European Importers of Dried Fruit, Edible Nuts, Processed Fruit & Vegetables, Processed Fishery Products, Spices, Honey and Similar Foodstuffs.
- Through its membership, based on national trade organisations, FRUCOM represents over 1.000 companies across the EU and beyond.
- FRUCOM is officially recognised by the European Institutions as a representative organisation for the import trade and, as such, regularly consulted on all relevant trade matters susceptible to affect the sector.
- FRUCOM cooperates on a regular basis with a range of organisations and institutions involved in the agri-food business.
- FRUCOM is an active member of CELCAA (the European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade) and Eurocommerce (the representation of the European retail, wholesale and international trade sectors) via its hosting federation SACAR.
- The FRUCOM secretariat is based in Brussels, close to the European Institutions.

MISSION

- Represent and defend the common interests of FRUCOM members at European level
- Promote the visibility of the sector
- Facilitate cooperation among FRUCOM members at European level
- Provide a networking platform where representatives from the trade can meet and exchange views.

To fulfil FRUCOM's mission, the FRUCOM secretariat pursues the following activities on a daily basis:

- Monitoring of EU legislation and policy developments in the fields relevant to FRUCOM members: international trade, food safety, agriculture, fisheries and customs.
- Collection and distribution of information to FRUCOM members.
- Permanent link with the European institutions and with other European trade associations in the agri-foodstuffs sector.
- Strategic advice & coordination of lobbying activities, in co-operation with FRUCOM members, on relevant issues.
- Co-operation with various representatives of Member States, third countries, and international organisations in Brussels.

FRUCOM MEMBERS

- To this date, FRUCOM has 10 full members in 8 EU Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom) and 12 affiliated members in exporting countries (Turkey, the US, Morocco), in the EU (Portugal, France) and at international level (SIPA).

BENEFITS OF FRUCOM MEMBERSHIP:

- Receive quality information, advice and early warning on EU regulatory developments that might impact the import trade in Dried Fruits, Edible Nuts, Processed Fruit & Vegetables, Processed Fishery Products, Spices and Honey.
- Exchange views & expertise and develop common positions with other FRUCOM members throughout the EU.
- Have the ability to influence the European decision-making process through FRUCOM lobbying activities.
- Enjoy the networking opportunities offered by a Federation with a European dimension.

- According to the FRUCOM new Articles of Association adopted in March 2008:

Full Membership is open to national trade associations established in the EU Member States which represent traders in Dried Fruit, Edible Nut, Processed Fruit & Vegetable, Processed Fishery Product, Spices and Honey in their countries. Their member companies are de facto members of FRUCOM.

Affiliated membership is open to individual companies in EU countries without a national trade association; associations in EU countries with interests related to the import trade and associations or individual companies from countries outside the EU.

STRUCTURE

- FRUCOM is led by a Board, which meets at least twice a year. The Board has full competencies in terms of management and administration, subject to the powers of the General Assembly.
- Only representatives of FRUCOM full members are represented at the Board. The term of office of Board members is two years. Every two years, the Board elects a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer.
- The day-to-day management of the FRUCOM office is delegated to the Secretary General.
- The General Assembly, gathering FRUCOM full and affiliated members, takes place once a year.
- FRUCOM was officially constituted as a non-profit making international association (AISBL) under Belgian law in March 2008.
- The FRUCOM Board was most recently elected for a two-year mandate on 17 June 2009 during the FRUCOM 2009 General Assembly.

FRUCOM BOARD (2009-2011)

President:

Martin Rome (CENTA, UK)

Vice-Presidents:

Thomas Haas-Rickertsen (Waren-Verein, Germany)

Michael Becker (SNFS, France)

Treasurer:

Walter Anzer (BFIDA, UK)

Board Members:

Olivier Hottlet (Belgafood, Belgium)

Frank Vaerewijck (Belgafood, Belgium)

Catherine Balamoutsos (Greek Nut Association, Greece)

Giuseppe Calcagni (Fruit Imprese, Italy)

Alessandro Annibali (Fruit Imprese, Italy)

Joost Penning (NZV, Netherlands)

Jordi Marti (Almendrave, Spain)

Liam O’Gorman (CENTA, UK)

Fiona Bavester (NDFTA, UK)

Dieter Scheuer (Waren- Verein, Germany)

Denis Ketabi (SNFS, France)

Secretary General:

Sylvie Mamias

FRUCOM SECRETARIAT

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Secretary General

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WORKING GROUPS AND EXPERT GROUPS:

FRUCOM working groups, organised by FRUCOM product categories and composed of experts from FRUCOM member associations, are in place since 2006. Where necessary, Expert groups dealing with specific products can be established; they work under the umbrella of the Working group that set them up. FRUCOM working groups and expert groups have proved very important in helping FRUCOM identify and address key issues with the required expertise.

Working Group - PROCESSED FRUIT & VEGETABLES PROCESSED FISHERY PRODUCTS:

Chairman – Processed Fruit & Vegetables:
Thomas Schwieger (Waren-Verein, Germany)
Chairman – Fishery Products:
Walter Anzer (BFIDA, UK)

Members:
Ralf Theus (Waren-Verein, Germany)
John Burton (BFIDA, UK)
Albert Carabain (NZV, Netherlands)
Peter Thieme (NZV, Netherlands)
Olivier Hottlet (Belgafood, Belgium)
Christophe Neyrinck (Belgafood, Belgium)
Daniel Bisschops (Belgafood, Belgium)
Ary Devico (La Pulpe, France)
Claudine Michalek (Acqua Terra, France)

Observers :
Dr. Katrin Langner (Waren-Verein, Germany)
Dr. Barbara Niemans (NZV, Netherlands)

Working Group – DRIED FRUIT:

Chairman :
Joost Penning (NZV, Netherlands)

Members:
Gianbenedetto Noberasco (Fruit Imprese, Italy)
John Mc Cutcheon (NDFTA, UK)
Erik de Jongh (Belgafood, Belgium)
Michael Rund (Waren-Verein, Germany)
Martin Snoek (NZV, Netherlands)
Henk Kuiper (NZV, Netherlands)
Michel Abitbol (SNFS, France)
Joelle Vidal (SNFS, France)

Working Group – EDIBLE NUTS:

Chairman :
Michael Becker (SNFS, France)

Members:
Thomas Haas-Rickertsen (Waren-Verein, Germany)
Alessandro Annibali (Fruit Imprese, Italy)
Giles Hacking (CENTA, UK)
Jordi Marti (Almendrave, Spain)
Frank Vaerewijck (Belgafood, Belgium)

Expert Group - Hazelnuts:

Chairman :
Thomas Haas-Rickertsen (Waren-Verein, Germany)

Members:
Rainer Lückenhausen (Waren-Verein, Germany)
Romeo Stelliferi (Fruit Imprese, Italy)
Cees Weel (NZV, Netherlands)

Expert Group - Almonds:

Chairman :
Giles Hacking (CENTA, UK)

Members:
Michael Becker (SNFS, France)
Niel Hyde (CENTA, UK)
Jordi Marti (Almendrave, Spain)
Frank Rump (Waren-Verein, Germany)

▪ **FRUCOM Scientific Committee:**

Scientific Committee

Chairman :
Giuseppe Calcagni (Fruit Imprese, Italy)

Members:
Uygun Aksoy (Ege University Izmir, Turkey)
Sezmen Alper (Aegean Exporters Union, Turkey)
Alessandro Annibali (Fruit Imprese, Italy)
Michel Blanc (Experagro, France)
Lothar Börs (Eurofins, Germany)
Vaios Karathano (Agricultural Cooperatives Union, Greece)
Denis Ketabi (SNFS, France)
Richard Lawray (NDFTA, UK)
Güner Ozay (Tubitak, Turkey)
Gerhard Rechkemmer (Technical University Munich, Germany)
Angelo Visconti (ISPA-CNR Institute, Italy)
Marcel Bruggeman (NOFALab, Netherlands)
Nico Janssen (Dr. Verwey, Netherlands)

The FRUCOM Scientific Committee has been established for several years and brings together leading experts in the fields of mycotoxins, food safety and technical issues of interest to the edible nut & dried fruit sectors. The Committee is led by Giuseppe Calcagni, who is also the chairman of the INC scientific committee. The co-operation of FRUCOM and the INC in these fields is very active and fruitful.

Most notably, the FRUCOM scientific committee has actively contributed to the implementation of the Green Corridor for Iranian pistachios (2005-2007), has brought useful inputs to FRUCOM's contribution in the Ochratoxin A forums regularly organised by DG SANCO and has provided technical support to the INC involvement in the Codex Alimentarius discussions on aflatoxins levels for nuts and dried figs. Christine Moser, FRUCOM Food Law adviser, helps regularly with data analysis and technical support.

FRUCOM ACTIVITIES (SEPTEMBER 2010 – JUNE 2011)



MONITORING ACTIVITIES

In order to follow at best EU regulatory and policy developments relevant to FRUCOM members, the FRUCOM secretariat engages daily in monitoring activities and regular exchange of information with a wide range of actors and players. The main objective of these monitoring activities is ultimately to identify as early as possible in the EU decision-making process any potential issues that might affect FRUCOM members' interests. Once these issues have been identified, FRUCOM might decide to initiate further lobbying activities directed towards the European institutions and other key players in Brussels and elsewhere.

- **Regular contacts with the DGs of the European Commission of interest to FRUCOM:** The FRUCOM secretariat maintains regular contacts and a fruitful exchange of information with officials in charge of relevant dossiers in DG Agriculture, DG SANCO, DG Trade, DG MARE and DG Taxud. These contacts proved on many occasions very useful in order to collect early information and, on several occasions, solve practical problems for FRUCOM members. Overall, this permanent link with European Commission officials is very successful in ensuring that the voice and interests of FRUCOM members be known and heard.
- **Regular contacts with FRUCOM members:** An active co-operation between the FRUCOM secretariat and FRUCOM national members is very important to ensure identification of issues as they arise and to launch, when necessary, co-ordinated actions both at European and national levels, which have proved successful on many occasions in the past years. The FRUCOM secretariat often calls for inputs, data & support from FRUCOM members.
- **Contact and co-operation with other EU and international sectoral organisations:** The FRUCOM secretariat is regularly in contact and exchanges information with a network of sister - organisations dealing with agricultural and trade matters: CELCAA, Eurocommerce, Freshfel, PROFEL, ESA, Caobisco and Copa-Cogeca. In the field of edible nuts and dried fruit, FRUCOM continues to enjoy a close relationship with the INC. An active cooperation, exchange of information and coordination of activities takes place between the two organisations.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO FRUCOM MEMBERS

- **Publications in the EU Official Journal of relevant EU legislation:** The FRUCOM secretariat regularly informs FRUCOM members of the publication in the EU Official Journal of relevant pieces of EU legislation (Decisions, Regulations, and Directives).
- **Reports on FVO missions (Food & Veterinary Office) in third countries:** The FRUCOM secretariat regularly informs FRUCOM members of the publication of FVO missions' reports in third countries.
- **FRUCOM Circulars:** The FRUCOM secretariat informs FRUCOM members on a daily basis of news & regulatory developments at EU level. Both specialised Circulars (by product groups) and horizontal circulars (for Trade and Food Law matters) are distributed.

From September 2010 to June 2011, FRUCOM Circulars related to a number of issues of interest to FRUCOM members were sent out, covering for instance:



Food Law:

- Official Controls on 'risky' food products of non-animal origin: amendments to Regulation 669/2009
- Inspection fees for official controls
- EU Pesticides MRLs
- EU measures on food imports from Japan

Trade:

- EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)
- EU bilateral negotiations with Canada, South American countries and Malaysia
- EU FTAs with Morocco, South Korea, Colombia and Peru

Edible Nuts and Dried Fruit:

- Minimum frequencies of aflatoxin controls
- Imports of pine nuts from China
- Codex discussions – aflatoxins maximum level for dried figs

Fishery products:

- EU cadmium and PAH maximum levels for fishery products
- Global Sourcing Derogation Papua New Guinea & Fiji
- TRQs for fish and fishery products

RASFF notifications:

The FRUCOM Secretariat distributes to FRUCOM members weekly RASFF notifications focused exclusively on FRUCOM

products, based on the official RASFF notifications posted on the DG SANCO website. An annual summary compiling notifications for each group of FRUCOM products and presenting analytical statistics is also prepared each year and sent out to FRUCOM members. In addition, the FRUCOM secretariat maintains throughout the year a detailed and up-to-date RASFF statistical database, available to FRUCOM members upon request.

Contact person: Christine Moser, Food Law Adviser (cmoser@frucomeu)

2009 EU RASFF NOTIFICATIONS: FRUCOM REPORT

Month	PEANUTS	ALMONDS
JUNE	1	1
JULY	2	2
AUGUST	3	3
SEPTEMBER	4	4
OCTOBER	5	5

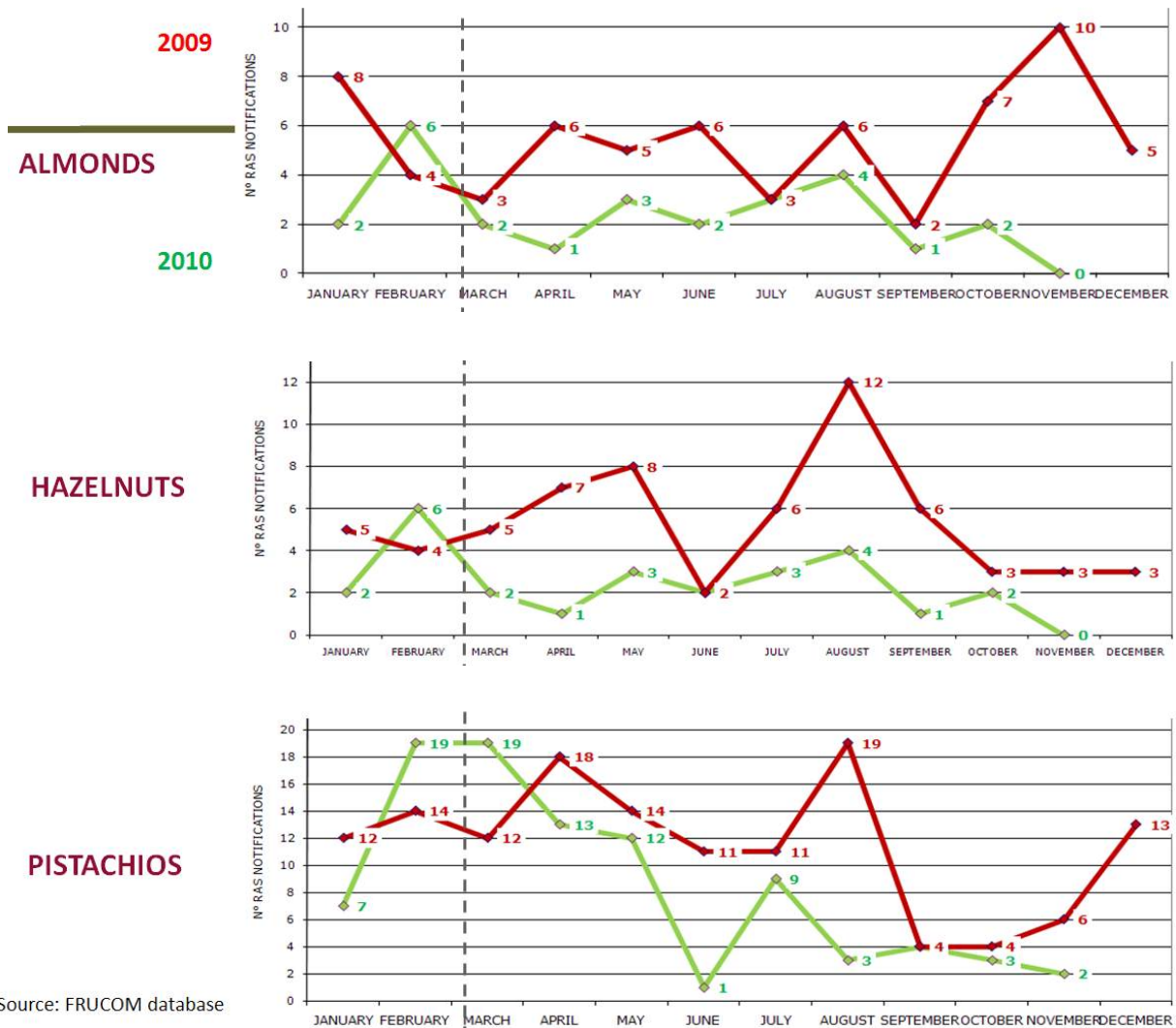
KEY ISSUES IN 2010-2011

■ EU Maximum levels for aflatoxins

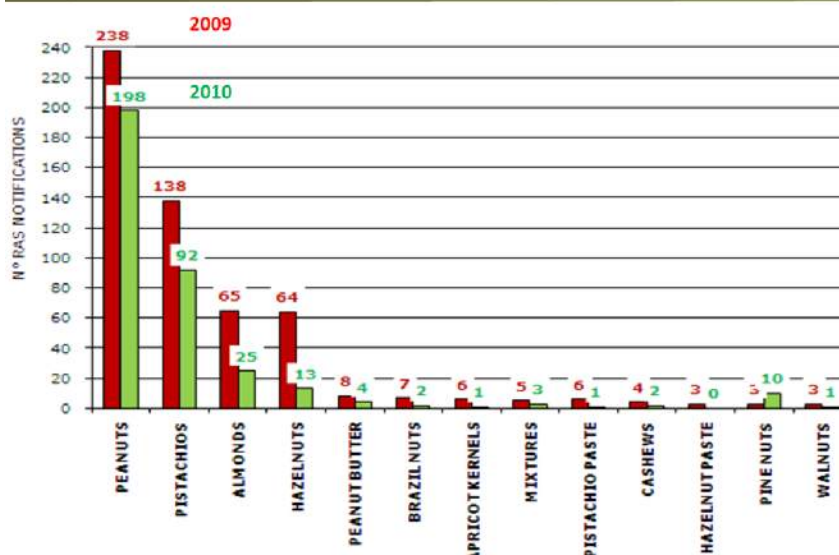
Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios:

Following the entry into force on 9 March 2010 of Commission Regulation 165/2010 of 26/02/2010 modifying the EU aflatoxin maximum levels applicable to almonds, apricot kernels, Brazil nuts, hazelnuts and pistachios to align them with the limits adopted at Codex level in 2008, the number of EU RASFF notifications and rejections at the borders have significantly decreased, as shown below, along with the associated costs for operators.

FRUCOM had throughout 2008 and 2009 worked hard towards the European Commission and, together with the FRUCOM members, towards the Member States to secure a rapid adjustment of the EU maximum levels to the new Codex levels. To ensure the final adoption of the revised EU aflatoxins levels, some compromises were necessary, a.o. the maintaining of B1 maximum levels under the EU legislation, nevertheless adjusted to reflect the actual ratios of aflatoxin B1 to aflatoxin total in each of the three tree nut concerned by the revision of the EU maximum levels, as well as the maintaining of the existing EU aflatoxins maximum levels for all the other tree nuts. FRUCOM will continue its effort to ensure that these matters are being re-assessed by the European Commission and Member States at a later stage.



Source: FRUCOM database



Dried figs: Work has started in 2010 on the establishment of Codex limits for aflatoxins in dried figs. A Codex working group, led by Turkey, put forward a draft text during the session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) which took place in the Hague, Netherlands from 21 to 25 March 2011. FRUCOM will monitor the next steps in the discussions on this matter, which are still at early stage within Codex Alimentarius, and will keep its members informed of the developments.

■ **Regulation 669/2009: official import controls of products non-animal origin – and subsequent amendments:**

The new EU Regulation 669/2009 establishing a list of products of non-animal origin imported from third countries into the EU to be submitted to a mandatory level of official controls in all the Member States, on the basis of known or emerging risks, was adopted by the European Commission and Member States in March 2009 and entered into force on 25 January 2010, after more than 3 years of discussions.

The main objective of this new legislation is to create a general framework enabling to put together in a single list all products of non-animal origin identified as potentially risky to consumers’ health and for which reinforced control procedures at the EU border would be required. Products are listed according to origin and hazard, on the basis of recurrence in RASFF notifications, imported quantities and shortcomings identified by FVO missions in the origin country. Imports of listed products into the EU are only allowed through points of entry designated by the Member States.

This issue had been identified since 2006 as very important for FRUCOM members, since many of the FRUCOM products, edible nuts and dried vine fruit in particular, were likely to be included in the list, due to risks of mycotoxins contamination. FRUCOM has therefore been very vocal on the matter during the 3 years of discussion and repeatedly raised its concerns to DG SANCO from an early stage and until the very end of the procedure, in order to ensure that the importers’ points of view would be heard and taken into account. FRUCOM’s voice was finally heard in the latest stage of the procedure, and a number of adjustments taking account of the FRUCOM comments were introduced by DG SANCO and finally approved by the Member States, even though the main point of concern (obligation to carry out all physical controls at the point of entry into the EU) could absolutely not be reversed for legal reasons.

Since the entry into force of the new Regulation 669/2009, FRUCOM has closely monitored and regularly informed its members of amendments to the list published on a regular basis in the EU Official Journal.

■ **Review of the EU rules on the financing of official controls:**

Articles 26-29 of Regulation 882/2004 set the rules that Member States must follow to finance official controls. An external study carried out on behalf of the Commission concluded in 2009 that (a) Member States do not have the adequate financial resources to carry out the necessary official controls and (b) the

current legal framework is convoluted, difficult to interpret and contradictory. At the beginning of 2011, the European Commission commissioned a supplementary study in order to support the preparation of an impact assessment on the three strategic options identified in 2009 (Option A: Harmonisation of inspection fees; Option B: Full subsidiarity of inspection fees; Option C: Improve the current system) On the basis of the outcomes of this study and the impact assessment, the European Commission will prepare a draft legislative proposal, foreseen for the first quarter of 2012.

FRUCOM has taken part since 2009 in all the stakeholders' meetings organised by DG SANCO on this topic and has put forward position papers to support the uniform enforcement throughout the EU of a harmonised and transparent method of calculation of inspection costs charged on EU importers, based only on direct costs. FRUCOM also stressed that competent authorities should ensure that officials controls are carried out in an efficient and timely manner.

Furthermore, the Commission also announced in 2011 that a global review of the overall structure of Regulation 882/2004 on official control was scheduled. One of the objectives of this review is to harmonize definitions and horizontal aspects such as inspection fees common to the different sectors covered by this Regulation. FRUCOM will closely monitor developments in this area and inform its members.

■ **EU Maximum Levels for Heavy metals in foodstuffs:**

EU maximum levels for heavy metals in foodstuffs are presently set in Regulation 1881/2006. These levels are regularly reviewed and the European Commission estimates important to have access to updated scientific data and analyses for risk management purposes. In 2007, the European Commission requested EFSA (the European Food Safety Authority) to update its opinions on the risks to human health related to the presence of cadmium and of lead in all kinds of foodstuffs. EFSA launched public calls to collect recent analytical data on levels of cadmium (November 2007) and lead (June 2008) in foodstuffs.

The two EFSA opinions subsequently published in 2009 and 2011 reaffirmed the need to reduce exposure to cadmium at consumer level, especially for children and vegetarians. On the basis of these opinions, the Commission started in 2011 to work with Member States technical experts to implement lower or introduce new EU cadmium levels for a series of foodstuffs, amongst other a number of fishery products and oilseeds, for which data proved it would be feasible. New EU legislation is foreseen for early 2012 at the earliest.

FRUCOM has actively contributed at the time to the collection data and has for example sent to EFSA a comprehensive set of analytical data on cadmium occurrence in all kinds of FRUCOM products, based on detailed information forwarded by FRUCOM members. FRUCOM will continue to closely follow these matters, as far as cadmium but also other heavy metals are concerned, and will inform its members accordingly.

■ **Maximum levels for Pesticides residues (MRLs):**

On 1 September 2008, EU Regulation 396/2005 on pesticides MRLs fully entered into force and lead to the EU-wide full harmonisation of all pesticides MRLs in products of plant origin, such as fruit & vegetables, and of animal origin. In March 2008, three key annexes to EU Regulation 396/2005, fixing the detailed EU harmonised maximum levels for pesticides residues, were published in the EU Official Journal. The publication of these annexes was a pre-requisite to the full implementation of EU Regulation 396/2005. Consequently, as from 1 September 2008, pesticides MRLs will only be set at EU level. The national legislations setting pesticides MRLs were repealed as from 1 September 2008 and replaced by Regulation 396/2005. In March 2009, the revised EU list of authorised substances was also finalised.

FRUCOM has closely monitored legislative developments in this area since 2005 and has regularly informed its members of any forthcoming changes in the EU pesticides MRLs applicable to products of relevance to FRUCOM members. In 2010 in particular, FRUCOM has helped clarified the relevant date of application for the transitional period granted for EU MRLs applicable to promycidone in grapes, which were reduced as from June 2010, and has managed to obtain the re-classification of Goji berries as Solanaceas for the application of pesticides MRLs, as confirmed by a EU legislation published end of July 2010.

- **Control measures on imports of animal products:**

When serious shortcomings are identified by FVO missions in the way food safety controls for animal products are handled by third countries' authorities or by individual establishments authorised to export animal products to the EU, the EU Commission might decide, in co-operation with experts of the Member States in the framework of the SCFAH – Import conditions (Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health) to take actions in order to protect European consumers. As a result, 100% import control measures might be introduced, or establishments might be deleted from the official list of establishments authorised to export animal products to the EU and /or the third country itself might be withdrawn from the list of countries authorised to export animal products to the EU.

FRUCOM members importing fishery products and honey are directly affected in their daily activities by the decisions taken by the SCFAH – Import conditions. Over the past year, measures have been implemented affecting imports of fishery products from, amongst others, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. The FRUCOM office keeps FRUCOM members regularly informed of any forthcoming measures of that kind, and tries to circulate details as early as possible in the process, depending on whether issues could be rightly identified through regular contacts with DG SANCO officials.

- **Council Regulation 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing:**

New EU rules entered into force on 1 January 2010, introduction a mandatory catch certificate to prevent the introduction into the EU of fish caught illegally. As a matter of principle, FRUCOM members generally supported the European Commission's initiative to prevent and eliminate IUU fishing. But they also expected the European Commission and the Member States to take appropriate account, while discussing the implementing rules to this new system, of the specific needs of the trade and to ensure that the new requirements will be enforceable in practice, especially as regards the specific case of processed fishery products.

FRUCOM specifically and repeatedly requested that the European Commission and Member States should allow for sufficient time to clarify a number of practical points and to communicate and explain them well in advance to all the parties involved, especially in exporting developing countries. Otherwise the enforcement of the new measures was expected to create a significant and unnecessary disruption of traditional trade patterns, mostly at the cost of European importers. Several position papers were sent in 2009-2010 to DG MARE and meetings with DG MARE officials were regularly organised, during which FRUCOM and its members were very vocal on the specific issues related to the import of processed fishery products, requesting a.o. the introduction of a specific transition period to allow for a smooth entry into force of the new IUU measures.

FRUCOM will continue to closely monitor this issue, including possible future amendments to the IUU Regulation, and raise its voice whenever necessary, together with its members involved in the import of fishery products, and with the support of the FRUCOM working group and the national associations member of FRUCOM.

- **EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) post-2013:**

FRUCOM is closely following the reform of the EU GSP scheme that will be enter into force as from January 2014. In 2010, FRUCOM responded in great details to the official stakeholders' consultation carried out by DG TRADE and highlighted the importance for European importers of securing an easy-to use, practical, stable and reliable system.

- **Bilateral trade negotiations between the EU and third countries:**

FRUCOM monitors the bilateral negotiations into which the EU regularly engages with the aim of liberalising trade with targetted third countries of interest to EU operators. In 2010, free-trade agreements (FTAs) were concluded with Colombia, Peru and South Korea; negotiations are continuing in 2011 for FTAs with Canada, Ukraine, India and Mercosur. Japan and Vietnam might be next on the agenda.

MEETINGS AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Participation in meetings at EU level:

- **DG Agriculture Advisory Groups:** FRUCOM is recognised by DG Agriculture as a representative organisation for the import trade and, as such, has access to expert seats at three of the Advisory Groups of DG Agriculture:
 - Fruit & Vegetables,
 - Organic Farming
 - and Honey



These Advisory Groups gather representatives of the agricultural sector (producers, industry, trade, consumers) and meet regularly throughout the year. The FRUCOM secretariat attends these meetings together with the FRUCOM experts and reports on matters discussed during these meetings.

On 13 April 2011, **Giuseppe Calcagni was re-elected Chairman of the EU Advisory Group for Fruit & Vegetables for a second term of two years (2011-2013).**

This Advisory Group, composed of stakeholders' representatives from across the European fruit & vegetables' chain, is the official consultative body of DG Agriculture for all policy matters of relevance to the European fruit & vegetable sector.

The re-election of Giuseppe Calcagni at this high-level position will definitely continue helping make a great contribution to the visibility of FRUCOM and of tree nuts, dried fruit and processed fruit & vegetables at EU level.

- **EU-Turkey Annual Bilateral Hazelnut Meeting (28 September 2010):**

Under the EU-Turkey cooperation scheme on hazelnuts (Decision 1/98 of the EC-Turkey Association Council, Protocol 1, Annex 2), consultations on the market situation usually take place once every year before the start of the new hazelnut marketing season. The aim of these annual consultations is to review the market situation for hazelnuts in the past and coming seasons, including, in particular, production forecasts, stocks, expected producer and export prices and possible market developments as well as possibilities for adapting supply to demand.

As a stakeholder in the hazelnut market, together with Caobisco and Copa-Cogeca, FRUCOM was, as usual, invited to participate in the 2010 EU-Turkey Annual Bilateral Hazelnut meeting, which took place in Caprarola (Viterbo), Italy on 28 September 2010. FRUCOM was represented in this meeting by Romeo Stelliferi (Fruit Imprese), Giuseppe Calcagni (Fruit Imprese) and Sylvie Mamias.

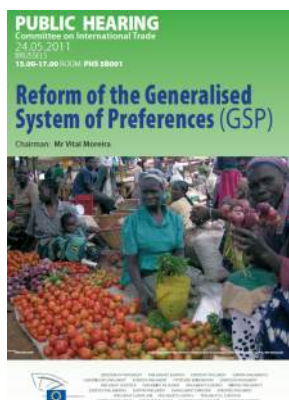


- **DG SANCO Consultative meetings:** FRUCOM is regularly invited to attend consultative meetings organised by DG SANCO in the framework of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain, Animal and Plant Health. Over the past year, FRUCOM participated to several meetings on Inspection fees, the RASFF, Food additives and Official Controls on food products of non-animal origin.

- **DG Trade - Dialogue with Civil Society:**

The FRUCOM Secretariat regularly attends meetings organised by DG Trade in the framework of the so-called Dialogue with Civil Society. These meetings cover a wide range of issues linked to trade, agriculture and WTO and ensure a regular dialogue between DG Trade officials and stakeholders from the private sector.

■ **Hearing - “Reform of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)”, International Trade Committee, European Parliament (24 May 2011):**



On 24 May 2011, in the framework of a specific hearing organised by the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament, Sylvie Mamias, FRUCOM Secretary General, gave a presentation to MEPs focused on the viewpoint of the commerce sector, and European importers in particular, on the upcoming reform of the EU GSP post-2013. With its new powers in the field of trade provided by the Lisbon Treaty, the European Parliament will have a full say in the decision-making process that will lead to the adoption of the future GSP scheme in place from January 2014 and is therefore an important interlocutor in this area for stakeholders.



Speaking on behalf of the Eurocommerce International Trade Committee and of FRUCOM, Sylvie Mamias stressed the importance of implementing a simple, stable and predictable GSP, in order to make it more attractive and practical to use for European importers, in the benefit of both European competitiveness and the economic development of exporting developing countries.



Sylvie Mamias also seized the opportunity to recall the difficulties expected by importers from 2017, when the recently adopted reform of the preferential rules of origin will fully enter into force and the GSP Form A be replaced by a certificate of origin directly delivered by exporters in the origin country - a reform against which FRUCOM has, together with many other European federations, actively lobbied from 2005 to 2010.

The presentation was well received by the audience and enabled to make the voice and specific concerns of European importers clearly heard in the discussions that will lead up to the new GSP scheme. Other speakers in the hearing included: Peter Thompson, DG TRADE Director for Development and EPAs, H.E. Yopez Lasso, Ambassador of Ecuador, Christopher Stevens from the Overseas Development Institute (UK) and Marc Maes from the NGO Coalition 11.11.11 (Belgium).

Organisation of meetings for FRUCOM experts & representatives:

■ **FRUCOM Joint Working Group Processed Fruit & Vegetables / Processed Fishery Products:**

Since 2006, the FRUCOM Working Groups on Processed Fruit & Vegetable and Processed Fishery Products, chaired respectively by Thomas Schwieger (Waren Verein) and Walter Anzer (BFIDA), have jointly met in Brussels every six months for one-day meetings.

Commission officials from DG Agriculture, DG TRADE, DG MARE, DG SANCO and DG TAXUD have been regularly invited to participate in the meetings to give up-to-date information on the latest developments related to specific dossiers of interest to the FRUCOM Working Groups members.

The discussions and exchanges of views have often proved very fruitful. The Working Groups most recently met on 18 May 2011.



▪ **FRUCOM 2010 General Assembly (21 September 2010, Brussels) :**

The FRUCOM 2010 General Assembly gathered in Brussels on 21 September 2010 more than 20 representatives of FRUCOM full and affiliated members.

Several European Commission officials had been invited in the afternoon open session to provide FRUCOM members with an overview of the main issues at stake in the field of food safety and an update on the most recent developments in these dossiers, followed by constructive and open exchange of views with the participants.

The following topics were specifically addressed during the meeting:

- RASFF: future developments
- Inspection fees – import controls
- Implementation of Regulation 669/2009
- Update on mycotoxins and safeguard measures on aflatoxins
- EU trade agreements with third countries: ongoing & future developments



Attendance to external meetings & conferences:

▪ **International Dried Grapes Producing Countries Conference (11-13 October 2010, Izmir, Turkey)**

Martin Rome, FRUCOM President, was invited to participate, on behalf of FRUCOM, in the International Dried Grapes Producing Countries Conference, held in Izmir on 11-13 October 2010. The Conference was attended by 39 representatives from Argentina, Australia, Chile, South Africa, Greece, India, Iran, Turkey and the USA. Participants reviewed market statistics and discussed ongoing and future challenges for the dried grape industry. Martin Rome was a guest speaker and gave a presentation on FRUCOM activities. It was agreed to invite China and Uzbekistan to attend the next conference, which will take place in Santiago, Chile on 14-15 October 2011.

▪ **25th European Dried Fruit Meeting and Waren-Verein annual dinner (12 November 2010, Hamburg, Germany)**



As every year, FRUCOM was invited to participate in the 25th European Dried Fruit Meeting organised by its German member organisation, the Waren-Verein der Hamburger Boerse. Presentations about FRUCOM activities and priorities were given in the conference by Martin Rome, FRUCOM President and Sylvie Mamias, FRUCOM secretary general.

The European Dried Fruit Meeting was followed by the traditional Waren-Verein annual dinner, also attended by a number of FRUCOM representatives. As in previous years, a FRUCOM board meeting and informal dinner was organised the evening before the European Dried Fruit Meeting.



▪ **INC 30th World Nut & Dried Fruit Congress (20-22 May 2011, Budapest, Hungary)**



Martin Rome (FRUCOM president) and Sylvie Mamias (FRUCOM secretary general) participated in the 30th World Nut & Dried Fruit Congress, organised this year in Budapest, Hungary. The INC Congress was, as every year, widely attended by all key actors in the worldwide nut and dried fruit industry (more than 800 participants from all over the world), including a number of representatives of FRUCOM member associations. As usual, meeting sessions were instructive and social events very enjoyable. Martin Rome and Sylvie Mamias were also invited to take part in the INC scientific committee meeting, chaired by its Chairman Giuseppe Calcagni and held a day ahead of the INC congress.

▪ **The FRUCOM secretariat was kindly invited by FRUCOM members to attend:**

BELGAFOOD General Assembly
(17 February 2011, Antwerp, Belgium)

CENTA General Assembly
(8 April 2011, London, UK)

NDFTA General Assembly
(24 June 2011, London, UK)





European Federation of the Trade in:
Dried Fruit & Edible Nuts • Processed Fruit
& Vegetables • Processed Fishery Products
Spices • Honey



PROGRAM

MORNING

VENUE Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Rue du Fossé aux Loups 47, 1000 Brussels
Meeting room Amsterdam - Luxembourg, 1st floor

9h30 - 10h WELCOME COFFEE

10h - 10h45 FRUCOM GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FRUCOM MEMBERS ONLY

11h - 12h45 SEMINAR - FOOD POLICY IN THE EU: WHAT NEXT?

Challenges in EU Health & Food Policy



Paola Testori-Coggi
Director General
Directorate Health & Consumers Protection - European Commission



Wes Himes
Policy action - Brussels



Katharina Darschewsky
College Public Policy - London

13h - 14h30 NETWORKING LUNCH - sponsored by 

AFTERNOON

15h30 - 17h Walking tour of Brussels historical centre

EVENING «A TASTE OF BRUSSELS»

VENUE Maison Grand Place, Grand Place 19, 1000 Brussels

19h COCKTAIL - sponsored by 

20h ANNIVERSARY DINNER - WITH MUSIC AND MORE!
Sponsored by  

FRUCOM 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 17 JUNE 2011 BRUSSELS



**WILL CELEBRATE ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

ON 17 JUNE 2011 IN BRUSSELS!

The program of the event includes a seminar with high-level speakers, and an anniversary dinner. 100 participants have registered to take part in the celebration.

Many thanks to our sponsors for supporting this event and to the FRUCOM members for their fruitful cooperation over the past 50 years!





FRU**COM** (FRUits, COnserves / cans, Miel / honey) was established as a European trade association on 30 April 1960 in The Hague, Netherlands, by five organisations:

- Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor den Handel in gedroogde Zuidvruchten, Specerijen en Aanverwante Artikelen (Nederlandse Zuidvruchten Vereeniging / NZV) - Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Netherlands,
- Verein zur Förderung des hamburgischen Handels mit Kolonialwaren und getrockneten Früchten (**Waren-Verein der Hamburger Börse e. V.**) – Hamburg, Germany
- Union Professionnelle Belge des Commerçants en Fruits, et Conserves (**BELGAFOOD**) - Antwerpen, Belgium,
- Verein der Bremer Importeure von getrockneten Früchten, Gewürzen und Drogen e.V. – Bremen, Germany,
- Fédération Nationale des Importateurs et Exportateurs des Produits Alimentaires - Paris, France



Talks started in October 1959 between the founding member organisations to get the import trade organised at European level in order to represent and defend the common interests of the sector in their dealings with the institutions of the European Economic Communities (EEC). At that time, these institutions were only newly set up by the Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957 by six European countries (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands). The first General Assembly of FRUCOM was held in Brussels on 24 October 1960, six months after the launch of the association.



‘By establishing a customs union between themselves, Member States aim to contribute, in the common interest, to the harmonious development of world trade, the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade and the lowering of customs barriers.’

Article 110 - Treaty of Rome
(25 March 1957)

Since 1960, FRUCOM has constantly stood for freedom of trade and for the removal of all kinds of tariffs and non-tariff barriers.



Other organisations from France and the Netherlands had joined the ranks of FRUCOM in the meantime: **Syndicat National des Commerces et Industries des Fruits Secs** - Marseille, France; Union Nationale des Importateurs et Exportateurs de l’Alimentation – Paris, France and Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor den Specerijhandel – Amsterdam, Netherlands. The General Assembly elected the first Board of Directors: Mr. Georg Schneider from the Netherlands (President), Mr. H. Uyterhoeven from Belgium (First Vice- President), Mr. O. Bertram from Germany (Second Vice- President) and Mr. J. Fourchtein (France).

For 50 years, FRUCOM has been recognized by the EU as the representative trade organisation for the import of the various food commodities dealt with by its membership.

That same year, FRUCOM was registered with the EEC as the representative European organisation for importers of the various food commodities represented within its member organisations (‘fruits secs, conserves, épices et miel’ / dried fruit, canned foods, spices and honey) and later invited to represent the interests of the import trade in the Advisory Committees for processed fruit & vegetables and for fish.



British organisations BACFID (British Association of Canned and preserved Food Importers & Distributors– since 1997 **BFIDA**, the British Food Importers & Distributors Association), the **NDFTA** (National Dried Fruit Trade Association) and **NCCFI** Liverpool (National Committee of Canned Food Importers) joined FRUCOM in 1972 while the UK was in the process of joining the EEC; **CENTA**, the UK Combined Edible Nut Trade Association, joined a few years later in 1989.

In 1980, FRUCOM appointed a delegate in Brussels to ensure day-to-day links with officials of the EEC institutions and enable a permanent representation of FRUCOM members’ interests at the heart of the EEC decision-making system. In 1981, the FRUCOM headquarters were re-located from the UK to the Waren- Verein office in Hamburg, along with the presidency of the association for the period 1981-2001. In the course of the 1990s, additional national trade associations joined FRUCOM: ANEIOA – Italy (now **FRUIT IMPRESE**), and the Danish, Swedish and Finnish Chambers of Commerce. In the 2000s, membership continued to grow to include Spain (**ALMENDRAVE**), Greece (**Greek Nut Association**) and Portugal.

In 2001, following the sudden passing of prominent FRUCOM President Mr. Henry-Hartwig Masuhr, the FRUCOM presidency was taken over by Mr. Jack Taillie (NZV) for the period 2001-2005. It is under his presidency that the decision was taken to permanently move the FRUCOM headquarters to Brussels, both to

FRUCOM is officially established in Brussels since July 2005 and continues to strive, after 50 years of activities, for free trade and protection of European importers’ interests against trade barriers and market disruption, which is also in the interest of European end-consumers.

consolidate FRUCOM’s positioning and visibility as a European trade association and to strengthen even more its links and lobbying activities towards European decision-makers, through greater geographical proximity.



The FRUCOM general secretariat was re-located within the delegation’s office in Brussels in July 2005. Subsequently, a new set of Articles of Association was adopted to officially incorporate FRUCOM as a non-profit making international association (AISBL) under Belgian law as of March 2008.

Since the 2000s, FRUCOM has seen its mission, activities and lobbying priorities evolve from dealing mostly with trade matters to focusing on food safety and technical issues, following the increasing and complex set of food safety rules and controls put in place by the EU, and the resulting increased responsibilities and liabilities borne by food importers in this respect. Hence the growing links in recent years with organisations and companies located in origin countries (**Morocco, Turkey, USA**) and international organisations such as the **INC** and **SIPA**, to ensure greater cooperation and exchange of information on these issues along the chain and with all involved operators.

A changing mission: from trade matters to food safety issues

A short overview of FRUCOM’s history over the past fifty years – many thanks to Dr. Klaus Hanebuth and Walter Anzer for their invaluable, reliable and detailed memories.



Sylvie Mamias, FRUCOM Secretary General

- FRUCOM Presidents:**
 1960-1970: Georg Schneider (Netherlands)
 1970-1972: Mr. Rothbaerd (Netherlands)
 1972-1980: Derek Leigh (UK)
 1981-1986: Hans-Joachim Freytag (Germany)
 1987-2001: Henry-Hartwig Masuhr (Germany)
 2001-2005: Jack Taillie (Netherlands)
 Since 2005: Martin Rome (UK)

- General secretaries:**
 1981-1982: Sigrid Schnelle
 1983-2000: Dr. Klaus Hanebuth
 2000-2001: Günther Schelling
 2001-2002: Dr. Klaus Hanebuth
 2002-2005: Dr. Katrin Langner
 2005-2006: Pascale Rouhier
 Since 2006: Sylvie Mamias

- Delegates in Brussels :**
 1980-2002 : Hannelore Mill
 2002-2005 : Pascale Rouhier



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