

October - November 2013

FRESHFEL INVITES KEY MEPs TO LUNCH DISCUSSION ON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

On 26 November, Freshfel invited several members from the European Parliament and other key stakeholders from Commission, the health sector and the fresh produce sector to a lunch discussion in the European Parliament. The event was organised in cooperation with Aprifel and MEP Anthea McIntyre, rapporteur for the Parliament's own-initiative report on the future of horticulture in Europe. During the discussion, speakers from the Parliament, Freshfel, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) discussed the importance of changing the agriculture and food policies in Europe to ensure that the fresh produce consumption level recommended by the WHO is met. This would also improve the economic returns for the fresh produce sector. The EU's policies, said the sector, should aim to show fresh produce's role as a remedy for several chronic illnesses, show its unique combination of both nutritional and environmental qualities, and improve the efficiency of the tools to promote and stimulate fresh fruit and vegetables consumption. The fruit and vegetable sector also expressed its hope that the McIntyre report could be a starting point and catalyst for a wider debate across Europe on the position of fruit and vegetables within a healthy diet.



Freshfel brought Members of the European Parliament and stakeholders from science and the fresh produce sector together for a lunch debate on health aspects of fruits and vegetables.

FRESHFEL WHOLESALE AND FOODSERVICES DIVISION

On 28 November, Freshfel held a meeting of its Wholesale and Foodservices Division. Participants from different European countries reported about the latest trends and developments on the wholesale and foodservice markets in their respective countries. The meeting also gave an opportunity to talk about the latest developments of EU policy relevant for the fruit and vegetable sector, such as public procurement, the EU school fruit scheme, waste and waste management as well as local sourcing and short supply chains.



SAVE THE DATE: FRESHFEL & AREFLH CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

In cooperation with the Assembly of Fruit and Vegetable Producing Regions in Europe (AREFLH), Freshfel is organising a conference on research and innovation in fruit and vegetables on 22 January 2014 in Brussels. The meeting will establish a dialogue with the European Commission on the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) in the area of agriculture. It will also gather the latest insights from agricultural research from different innovation and research centres in Europe. The all-day meeting will take place in the Copa Cogeca headquarters, Rue de Trèves 61 in Brussels.

ACROPOLIS PROJECT CLOSING CONFERENCE



50 participants from the EU institutions, science and the fresh produce sector attend the Acropolis closing conference.

The Acropolis project, a three-year research project in which Freshfel has participated, held its closing conference on 15 October in Brussels. The final results of the project were presented to participants from the European institutions, science and business organisations. The project has developed a methodology for cumulative risk assessment and aggregate exposure to a mix of pesticides on the same fruit or vegetable. The results of the research will influence evaluations conducted by ESFA as well as policy initiatives by the European Commission. Freshfel's role in the project was among others to assure the contact between research and business and to disseminate preliminary findings. Following the closing conference, Freshfel also gave a presentation at a conference with the title "Multiple pesticide residues in food items - from political desire to pragmatic implementation" that was organised by Eurofins in Hamburg.

FRESHFEL GIVES PRESENTATION AT FRUGIVENTA CONFERENCE



Freshfel attended a conference organised by Frugiventa in November on issues faced by the fruit and vegetable sector in the area of plant health. Freshfel's Philippe Binard and Egle Eimontaite gave a presentation on the new EU plant health regime and issues around European regulations on plant health.

FRESHFEL ATTENDS LAUNCH OF UNGCFL PROFESSIONALISM CHARTER

Freshfel was present at the launch of a new charter designed to showcase the professionalism of the French fruit and vegetable wholesale sector. At a launch event in Lille, the National Organisation for Fruit and Vegetable Wholesellers (UNCGFL) emphasised the fact that the sector did its work with a high degree of professionalism, but that this was often not recognised by the clients. Based on surveys among the sector's clients, the new charter therefore establishes ten best practice criteria that clients would like to see from the sector. Wholesellers who respect these criteria can sign up for the charter and will benefit from the positive recognition that it provides.



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