



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF THE TRADE IN DRIED FRUIT & EDIBLE NUTS • PROCESSED FRUIT & VEGETABLES • PROCESSED FISHERY PRODUCTS • SPICES • HONEY

FRUCOM JOINT WORKING GROUPS
FRUCOM DRIED FRUIT AND NUTS WORKING GROUP

13 April 2023, 16.30-18.00 CET

zoom

Report

List of participants:

- Jens Borchert – Warenverein der Hamburger Boerse E.V.
- Louise Mckerchar - American Peanut Council
- Gerda Vandercammen - U.S. Mission to the EU
- Ute Thote – Waren-Verein
- Pietro Mauro – fruitimpresa
- Ingrid Bujara - SGS Germany GmbH
- Begum Eraltinkostekliler - Aegean Exporters' Associations
- Ece Tirkaz - AEA
- Nilüfer Altan - Eurofins Analytik GmbH
- Lena Knock – Eurofins Analytik GmbH
- Joost Penning - Catz International B.V. / NZV
- Jeanette Gonnermann – Waren-Verein
- Martina Zurli - FRUCOM
- Guillaume Pagy - Pagysa
- Amit Vara – Voicevale
- Natalie Sankey – Minerva Global Limited
- Abhijeet Kulkarni – Almond Board of California
- Arjen Verduijn - Yme Kuiper BV
- Lukasz Wozniacki _ CropLife Europe
- Julia Compagnon – Alliance 7
- Sumera Abilgan - Ticaret Bakanligi
- Katri Saari – FRUCOM
- Ellie Osman – NDFTA Minerva Global
- Emma Brown – CropLife Europe
- Lebo Mofolo - FRUCOM
- Anna Boulova - FRUCOM
- Imke Rieck - SGS Germany GmbH
- Frank Lebas Kinay – KINAY FRUIT SAS/SNFS
- Kai Ehrig - Visser Nutprocessing GmbH
- Oguz Ascioğul – Aegean Exporters' Association
- Barbara Niemans - NZV
- Minda Tabuyo – ALMENDRAVE
- Peter Scheuer – Scheuer import
- Hans de Jong - Rhumveld Winter & Konij
- Sinem Uney Çam – KFC GIDA



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- Betül Vazgeçer - GKGM
- Katharina Zimmermann – Eurofins Analytik GmbH
- Hasan Osma Sabir – Aegean Exporters' Associations
- George Smith – Midsummermarketing
- Gokhan Ersan – AVBIRDT
- Bruno Giroud – CAP industries SA
- Lieven Plets - Wonderful pistachios & almonds
- Gabriele Ludwig – Almond Board of California
- Fernando Arevalo – INC
- Sertaç Toramanoglu – KIB
- Sahika Atilgan – Ticaret Bakanligi
- Shahla Ali, Wonderful Pistachios & Almonds
- Umit Can Unal - KIB
- Metin Can Gulseren – KIB
- Sertac Tabak – KFC



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Update on Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR) and its impacts on MRLs and import tolerances, Emma Brown (CropLife Europe):

Sustainable use regulation (SUR) is led by the Environmental Committee (ENVI) and supported by the Agricultural Committee (AGRI). Both Environmental Committee and Agricultural Committee will perform their impact assessments on the draft.

The most recent draft on SUR focuses on:

- Increasing reduction targets (50%/80%)
- Increasing and changing the definition of sensitive areas and buffer zones
- Redefining of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Introduction of polluter pays principle
- Revision of Harmonised Risk Indicators Introduction of monitoring programs
- Restrict the use and purchase of chemical PPPs remains except for products used in organic agriculture.

ENVI’s opinion of the draft will be voted on in September. The ENVI opinion focuses on increasing targets and enlarging sensitive areas and buffer zones. AGRI’s opinion will be finalized by the end of May and the vote is expected to be before July. The Member States are expected to vote for SUR in October 2023.

Update on Sustainable Use Regulation and its impacts on MRLs and import tolerances, Lukasz Wozniacki (CropLife Europe):

Farm to Fork impacts Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and import tolerances. The Commission proposal is highlighting the importance of pollinator protection. In the future, pesticide active substances will be evaluated with more focus on their environmental impacts, including the impacts on pollinators. Neonicotinoids were the first substances to be evaluated with a focus on environmental effects.

Third countries have raised concerns on how this would impact trade with the EU. The Commission is proving clarification to trade partners and third countries and drafting a detailed plan regarding the future regulations on lowering MRLs based on environmental concerns. The Commission informed that the next substances evaluated with more environmental focus will be the remaining neonicotinoids.

Official controls, (Tim Gumbel)-Update on latest developments in relation to EU import control measures for the food and feed of non-animal origin.

Increased controls regulation is renewed every six months. The Member States will vote on the next increased controls in the Standing Committee on 25-26 April 2023. The measures are to come into force in July.

The changes for FRUCOM products would be:

Annex 1:

- Aflatoxins: Groundnuts (Senegal delisting)



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- Pesticide residues: dried lemons (Türkiye)
- Cyanide: unprocessed apricot kernels (Türkiye)
- Sulphites: dried apricots (Uzbekistan (delisting))

Annex 2:

- Aflatoxins: Groundnuts (Egypt, (Gambia delisting), India, (Sudan delisting), Pistachios (Iran, Türkiye – country of origin),

For the pistachios from the U.S. dispatched to the EU via Turkey, the Commission is looking into options on how to tackle this issue since U.S. pistachios dispatched from the U.S. to the EU do have no similar issues with aflatoxins.

The EU is discussing the changes in increased controls with the relevant third countries. Currently, the Commission is drafting a guidance document for official controls to provide more clarity to official controls. This guidance will provide for example clarification for the “risk vs non-compliance” issue. The guidance document for official controls is expected to be finalized by the end of summer and there will be a stakeholder meeting in May. The members raised a question regarding if the dispatch limitation is also applicable for the MRL exceedances, which do not pose food safety issues. The Commission clarified that it is the responsibility of the Member State authorities to assess the risk.

Additives (SO₂), Dr. Betül Vazgecer (Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey)

Dr. Betül Vazgecer (Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey) gave an update on the view of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture regarding the possible lowering/banning of SO₂. Dried apricots and other dried fruits are commonly treated with SO₂. Apricots are grown in rural areas of Turkey. Due to the lack of adequate handling and cold storage facilities, post-harvest loss of fruits and vegetables are estimated at 30% and 25%, respectively. Preservatives are used widely in dried fruits and vegetables for extending the storage period. Thus, effective preservatives and preservation technologies are necessary to extend the shelf life of fresh and dried fruits and vegetables. The Turkish ministry has sent a letter to the Commission regarding the impact of the possible lowering/banning of SO₂. The approval of food additives should also take into account other factors relevant to the matter under consideration including societal, economic, traditional, ethical, and environmental factors, the precautionary principle, and the feasibility of controls.

FRUCOM will prepare a position paper and organize a meeting with the Commission.

Secretarial update on food safety

The secretariat gave an update on pesticides, organics, and contaminants. For glyphosate, the EFSA peer review of the risk assessment of glyphosate is delayed. EFSA's conclusion on glyphosate is expected to be published in July 2023.





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There is currently an ongoing consultation regarding mineral oil as a food contaminant. Mineral oil enters dried fruit and nuts via jute bags, machine oils and milling. There is only limited amount of finding of mineral oil in dried fruits and nuts.



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