



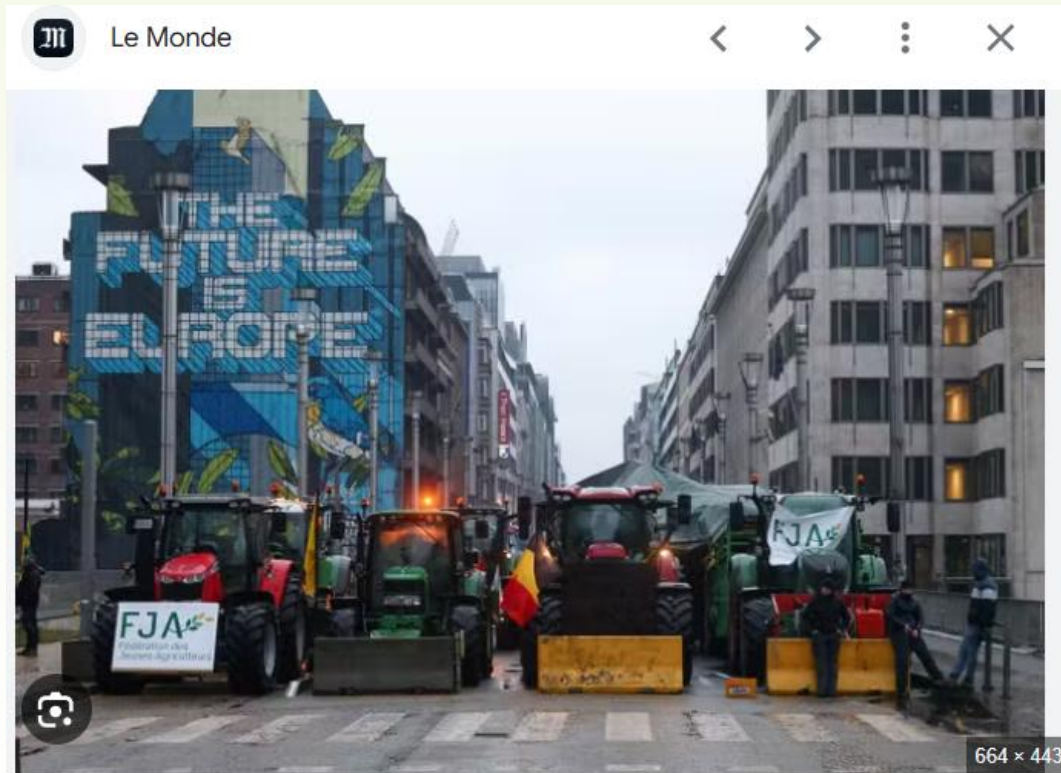
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF THE TRADE  
IN DRIED FRUIT & EDIBLE NUTS • PROCESSED FRUIT & VEGETABLES  
PROCESSED FISHERY PRODUCTS • SPICES • HONEY



# FRUCOM Hamburg meeting

November 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

# EU farmers' protests and EU right wing policy agenda



Farmers protest in Brussels outside EU agriculture ministers' meeting

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- Worldwide context: the US, China, Ukraine, Mercosur
- EU priority for EU farmers but less money for agriculture
- Shift away from EU Green Deal
- Push for “same standards applicable to imports”
- Affects specific decisions (e.g. pesticides)

## DG AGRI political stance

- Vision for the future of agriculture
- Pro-EU farmers; farmers' challenges include unfair competition.
- Sustainability in farming must encompass economic, environmental, and social dimensions
- Fair global trade practices; reciprocal standards in imported goods and faster approval processes for biocontrol alternatives to pesticides
- Revision of organic legislation.
- Focus on food industry as from 2026; competitiveness angle

## Work programme 2026

- Building on Strategic Dialogue and Vision for Agriculture and Food, including the “work stream on equivalence, strengthen competitiveness of farmers and agri-food chain, support rural communities and simplify rules on agriculture”.
- Launch a new buy European food campaign.
- Update rules on unfair trading practices
- Agri-food economic diplomacy, agreements; work on “stronger alignment of production standards at multilateral level”.
- US: a foundation for further cooperation, including on reducing tariffs on more products, addressing non-tariff barriers; Mercosur
- Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture to “boost competitiveness and sustainability”

# Multiannual financial framework

2028-2034, 2 trillion euros

- **Initial proposal to merge agricultural and regional development payments, national variable top ups – ending European policy, less money for agriculture; more on defense**
- **Threat of EU Parliament rejecting entire budget**
- **Amendments including a 10% rural spending target, and increasing parliament's budgetary influence. Introduction of Plans to merge cohesion, agriculture, rural development, fisheries, social, migration into a single integrated plan per country/region.**
- **COM reiterates that cohesion and agriculture remain central: €218bn for less-developed regions, €294bn for farmers' income support, €2bn for fisheries, plus a 43% climate/environment target.**
- **EP backs away from rejecting**



# Common agricultural policy simplification

- **EU Council and Parliament reached an agreement on CAP simplification: cutting red tape, supporting competitiveness**
- From 2026, farmers will see **practical changes**: one on-the-spot check per year, simpler rules for organic farms, fewer checks for farms under 30 ha, higher flat-rate payments for small farmers, and clearer environmental guidance.



# Council agreement on cross-border Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs):

- AGRI Commissioner Hansen: the political priority of a **fairer food supply chain**, **4,500+ investigations** since 2021 have led to **€42 million in fines**, and stressing the need for stronger cooperation as around **20% of food consumed in each Member State** comes from other EU countries.
- large buyers including retail can be investigated and sanctioned for abuses affecting farmers and small producers.
- **National enforcement authorities will be required to cooperate**, without needing a producer's complaint
- Buyers **outside the EU** must appoint an **EU-based contact person** for investigations

## Trade agenda: US and others

- EU recognises the deal with the US is unbalanced but avoids disruption
- Serious criticism in the Parliament
- WTO compatibility is questioned
- But progress in the Parliament and Council
  
- In this context, EU will focus on other trade partners



# FRUCOM outreach

## EU-US trade

- meetings AGRI Deputy Director General 1<sup>st</sup> July/DG Trade
- letters to AGRI/Trade Commissioners (=EU Minister) ;
- Calls Cabinet AGRI, Trade, EU Presidency
- Meetings and contacts EU Parliament members INTA Committee
- US Mission and FRUCOM members 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

Import controls: Meetings DG SANTE, Commissioner on 9th December

Morocco: meetings and contacts Trade, Taxud, Sante, Mare

Anti-dumping: meetings Trade

Organics: civil society dialogue meetings

Meetings of network: Profel, FDE, Freshfel, AFCRT pesticides, FDE, Roundtable on sustainability, Fefac, SpiritEurope, Caobisco, Snacks, etc



## FRUCOM outreach

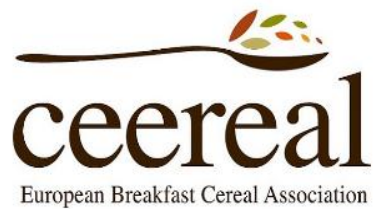
- Meetings with members in Germany, France, Belgium, the UK, APC, Spain, Morocco
- Planned US Feb 2026

# Members and partners within SACAR



ASSUC

European Association of Sugar Traders



European Breakfast Cereal Association

CEEREAL

European Breakfast Cereal Association



NDFTA

The Nut & Dried Fruit Trade Association



APC

American Peanut Council

# Joint FRUCOM-CEEREAL event, 1 October

Has become the EU food industry conference

How can policymakers, trade and industry co-operate for healthier diets and more sustainable food systems?

✓ Food Safety, Nutrition and Communication, Sustainability Panel

- Over 90 attendees

- Question: date before SIAL – 16th Oct 2026?



# Nutrition and Communication activities

- **LinkedIn:** links to trade and industry realities to understand their communication activities, research activities and priorities
- ✓ Nutritional benefits
- ✓ Research
- ✓ EU policy
- ✓ Sustainability

**Any feedback? What would you like to see on our LinkedIn page?**

**Your input needed!** (research, projects, collaborations...)



# Nutrition and Communication activities

- **Meeting with DG SANTE (February 2025)**
  - ✓ Nuts and seeds consumption remains extremely low
  - ✓ Role of FRUCOM products in F2F objectives and in protein transition → Nuts have a place in the shift towards more plant-based diets
  - ✓ Recommendations on nuts intake are not homogenous at EU level, despite strong evidence - little clarity among consumers, consumption not encouraged
  - ✓ Possible sector's involvement in non-communicable diseases prevention programmes
  - ✓ Possibility of submitting a health claim application to EFSA (for a specific nut)
- **Online Nutrition and Communication Working Group on Microbiome – May 2025**
  - ✓ Guest speaker: Ingmar van Hengel, Director of Business Development, Cryptobiotix



# Nutrition and Communication activities

- **Portion size guidance development (July – September 2025)**
  - ✓ Creating an evidence-based document providing consistent portion guidance for nut consumption for the industry and policymakers
  - ✓ Raising awareness of the real size of a single portion of nuts
  - ✓ Creating consistent consumer messaging, reducing confusion
  - ✓ Addressing misconceptions, e.g., the link between nut consumption and weight gain
  - ✓ Encouraging regular, habitual consumption
  - ✓ Enabling manufacturers to: Create single-portion packs aligned with quantitative (30 g servings) and qualitative (reformulate towards e.g., unsalted, roasted, no added sugars or oils) criteria
  - ✓ Developing products including nut products (e.g., cereals, bars, snacks) that meet public health standards, are based on scientific evidence, and are aligned with EU FBDGs and health authorities' recommendations.



# Nutrition and Communication activities

## Next steps:

- Portion size guidance:
  - Involvement of experts and researchers – proposal from co-chair and cost estimation upcoming
  - Submission for **peer review**
  - Publication on a **peer review journal**
  - Benefits: more scientific **relevance** and **solidity**, easier promotion and communication to policymakers
  - Possible involvement of the Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research & Education Foundation (INC NREF) for feedback / funding
  - Funding?
  - Next Working Group meetings topics: any suggestions?

# Joint FRUCOM/CEEREAL Event – Food Safety Panel

## Moderators:

- Riccardo Calcagni, Co-chair FRUCOM working group, CEO Besana.
- Lynn Furnival, Chair CEEREAL food safety working group.

## Panellists:

- Frans Verstraete, DG SANTE, European Commission.
- Giuseppe Triacchini, Data Analyst, Integrated DATA Unit, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA): **if the Commission refuses industry data and insists on submission to EFSA, the FRUCOM project must be fully remodelled; EFSA wants 26 parameters for each datapoint**





# Pistachios (Iran) – Aflatoxins

## State of play on the Risk Management plan, reported by Iran:

- Only exports in 10kg vacuum boxes
- More restrictive sampling at 2 stages (4 x 10 kg instead of 2 x 10 kg), added 3rd Aflatoxin test in 3rd laboratory under Ministerial supervision.
- Established MLs of 4 and 5 ppb for aflatoxin B1 and total, instead of 8 and 10 ppb.
- Penalties for exporters with more than 10% rejection rates.
- Restricted all exports to the Kerman Province Customs and testing to 2 governmental labs (Kerman and Rafsanjan).

## **Challenges:**

- Increasing the sampling, restricting the export location and using only 2 labs causes delays in test results and increases transportation costs for exporters outside the export province.
- The two separate sampling and analysis are adding at least 1 week to the export process. This process is generally done by the government, which has shown to be less efficient than the private sector.
- Exporters prefer 1,000 kg Jumbo bags instead of the currently used 10kg vacuum boxes, which are more cumbersome to process. This has hampered exports.
- The registration of exporters is finalized, but not of the orchards.

# Food Safety Highlights

- Pistachios (Iran) – Aflatoxins

RASFF notifications in 2025 (until 17/11/2025)

Quarter	Notifications	Notifying country	Notifications
Q1	4	Germany	15
Q2	8	Italy	7
Q3	14	Greece	3
Q4	4	Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Spain	1 each
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>		

Notification details	%	Notifications
<u>Border rejection notification</u>	<u>87%</u>	<u>26</u>
<b>Related to aflatoxins</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>26</b>
Documentation/labelling	30%	7
Salmonella	3.3%	1
Insects	3.3%	1

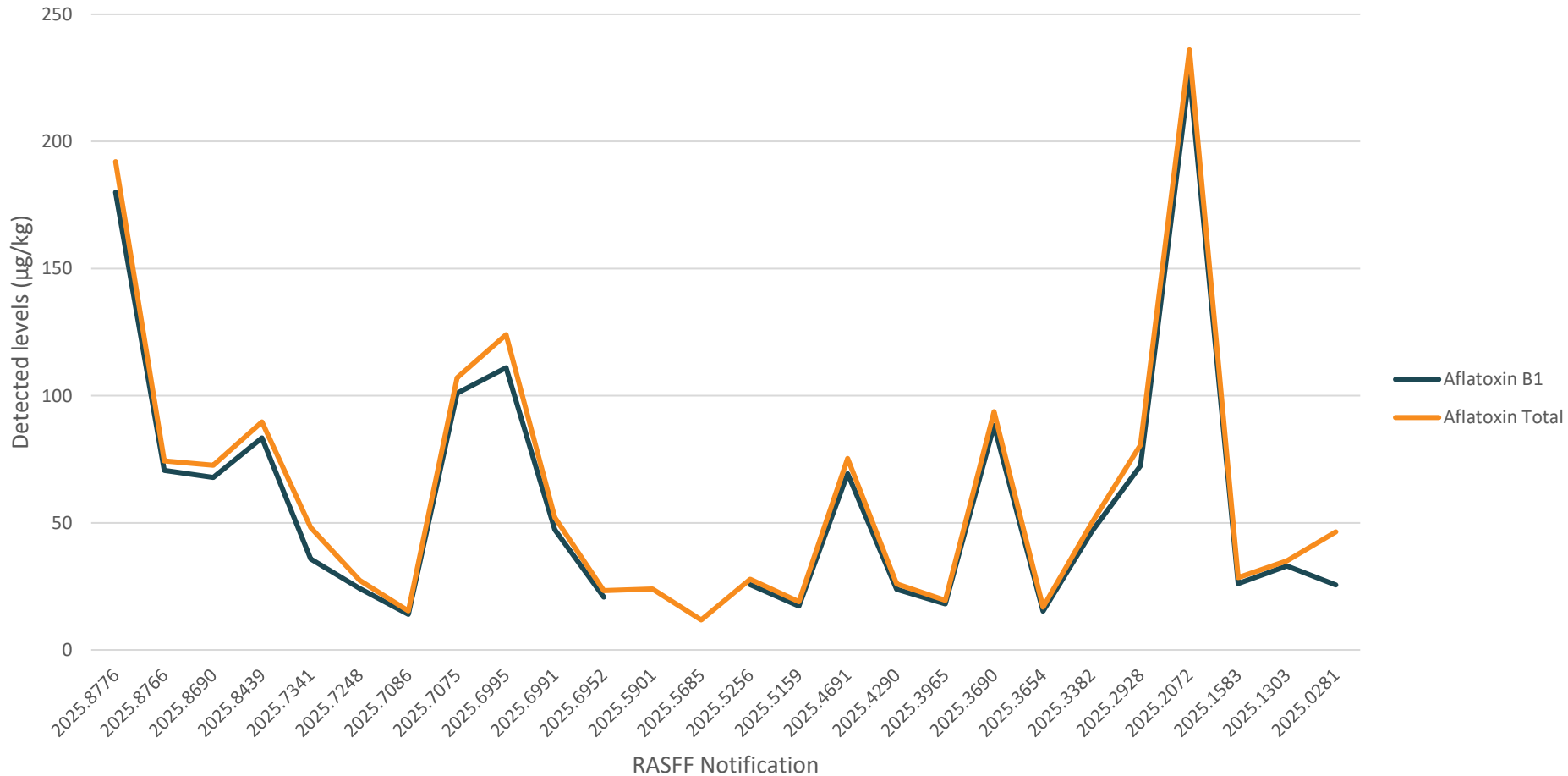
- Out of the 23 notifications related to aflatoxins, 8 (31%) were shipped via Türkiye.



# Food Safety Highlights

- Pistachios (Iran) – Aflatoxins: change in DG SANTE limits our action, issue needs to be controlled proactively

Detected levels on RASFF notifications on Aflatoxins



Hazard	Maximum Level (µg/kg)	Range of detections (min-max, µg/kg)
Aflatoxin total	10	15.3 - 236.05
Aflatoxin B1	8	14 - 226.7

## Dried figs

- Meeting with Commission services and Aegean Exporters Association (30 September).
- **15 October -15 November 2025: total exports 2025 crop: 11,886 t; 2024 crop: 11,298 t, +5.7% increase Exports 2025 crop to EU: 5,671 tonnes; 2024 crop to EU: 5,786 tonnes -2%. EU share in total exports is 47.7%.**
- Within the scope of the **Project for the Disposal of Aflatoxin- and Mould-Contaminated Dried Figs**, the collection rate for aflatoxin-contaminated dried figs in the 2024/25 season was **1.5%**, while the rate for mould-contaminated dried figs was **1%**.
- Total **2.5%** are collected after inspection, to prevent contaminated figs that cannot be visually distinguished from circulating.

## Dried figs

- For the **2025/26 season**, the collection rates **1.25% for aflatoxin-contaminated figs** and **1.25% for mould-contaminated figs**.
- **Quantities destroyed/disposed:**
  - 2024 crop** (15 October 2024 – 15 November 2025) 1,300 tonnes
  - 2025 crop** (20 October 2025 – 15 November 2025) total: 200 tonnes
- The number of RASFF for aflatoxin has decreased compared to first month of 2024 season. Detection of ochratoxin in dried figs is not possible in the same way.
- AEA monitoring, in contact with Ministry and exporters.



# Phosphine (and its related Phosphide salts)

- FRUCOM official letter with concerns on upcoming expiry of authorisation
- The Commission recognises "the crucial role of effective pest control methods, such as phosphine fumigation" and informs the discussions have not reached any conclusions yet. Next meeting with MS is 10-11 December.
- EU postpones expiry date of authorisation for magnesium and aluminium phosphide as biocides until 31 July 2027, from 31 January 2026.

# Increased Controls revision

- – discussions between Member States. Increased checks for:
  - Annex I: Sesame Seeds from Türkiye (Salmonella, from 20 to 30%).
  - Annex II:
    - Pistachios, mixtures and products made from pistachios from Türkiye (Aflatoxin, from 30 to 50%).
    - Pistachios, mixtures and products made from pistachios from the United States shipped from Türkiye (Aflatoxin, from 30 to 50%).

# Food Safety Highlights

- **Nickel in Pecans** – proposed increase of ML to 10 from 3.5 mg/kg.
  - Commission proposal based on FRUCOM data.
  - Commission includes this proposal in an amendment of Regulation 2023/915 on several contaminants, which is targeted to be published April/May 2026.
- Currently under discussion with Member States, none of which has commented against it so far.
- **Nickel in Hazelnuts** – Open Call for data.
  - FRUCOM received concerns from members, reporting multiple exceedances of the applicable maximum level (ML) for nickel (3.5 mg/kg). This was particularly the case on organic hazelnuts.
  - Open call for data until 21 November.
  - Hazelnut EU-TK meeting meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November – do we want to flag the issue?



# Food Safety Highlights

- Alternaria

- FRUCOM has not received a formal reply from the Commission to the letter sent in August.
- The Commission informed that:
  - They shared FRUCOM’s data with EFSA (will not be used “in full” in the ongoing risk assessment, as it is not in the EFSA format).
  - FRUCOM’s data will be used as a comparison point – uncertainty analysis, increasing or lowering the uncertainty related to the data present in the EFSA database.
- A draft EFSA opinion is expected to be published in Spring 2026, open for public consultation. The deadline for publication of the assessment is 30 September 2026.
- The Commission will take FRUCOM’s comments into account in planning possible maximum levels. Effective discussions will only take place after EFSA’s assessment is adopted and published.
- Levels not yet set in the legislation are used for recalls. Comments?



# Pesticides and Contaminants Project

- 2025 edition (preliminary results): ~6.000 data points on Contaminants, ~99.000 on Pesticides.
- Results meeting scheduled for 3 December, 10am (Brussels time).
- Separate meeting US friendly schedule (2 December, 16h30, Brussels time).
- Presentation of the project to the Pesticide Residues unit in the European Commission (pending agreement by participants).
- **New FRUCOM members have joined the project, but some members are still not part. This is fundamental for risk management for pesticides and contaminants**



# Food safety Omnibus (simplification)

- FRUCOM official letter focused on increased controls/transition periods for new MRLs/trade impact assessments/industry consultations.
- Import controls meeting with Commissioner
  - FRUCOM representative to meet DG SANTE Commissioner on import controls on December 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Additional comments?

# Organics

- Commissioner Christophe Hansen held the second Organic Implementation Dialogue on 10 Nov
- COM wants targeted adjustments, reducing burden (e.g. reporting),
- preserving the EU organic global “gold standard” reputation, including EU logo.
- The Commission prepares
  - targeted revisions to the Organic Basic Act (due 10 December),
  - a roadmap for secondary legislation
  - a renewed Action Plan in 2026.
- The current regulation requires renegotiation of all organic equivalency agreements by 31 Dec 2026 (US, Japan, South Korea, etc.). If the Basic Act revision drags on, EU exporters risk undermining market access.
- IFOAM Organics Europe priorities: fair import and labelling rules, practical group certification, recognition of processing innovations

FRUCOM priorities? Re-establish small online discussion group on organics?