



Editorial:

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the 2014 newsletter, providing you with an update on PROFEL's main activities and an overview of EU issues of relevance to the sector.

It has been a very interesting year at European level, with the renewal of the European Commission and the European Parliament. Also at PROFEL level, 2014 has been a year of change following the merger between KellenEurope and AGEP, to form KellenAGEP Association Management, the structure providing the association management services to PROFEL. You will read more about this and other topics in this newsletter.

I also make use of this occasion to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to a fruitful cooperation in 2015.

Kind regards,
Aline Rutsaert - Secretary General

Trade update

On the 7th of August 2014 a **Russian trade ban** entered into force, suspending for 1 year imports from the EU for certain products. Frozen fruit and vegetables and dehydrated vegetables were among the products affected by this trade measure. PROFEL addressed a letter to the Commissioner for Agriculture to set out the consequences for the processed F&V Sector ([Trade/14/011](#)).

As negotiations for a free trade agreement with **Japan** are advancing, PROFEL met with the European Commission in September to explain the importance of these negotiations and the offensive interest for some PROFEL sectors ([Trade/14/016](#)).

In August 2014 the longstanding trade negotiations with the **South African Development Community** have been concluded. A PROFEL delegation met with Commission Representatives in September to discuss the final outcome of these negotiations and the consequences for the EU's canned fruit sector ([Trade/14/015](#)).

A stock-taking on the trade negotiations with the **United States (TTIP)** took place in December. The 8th negotiating round is scheduled to take place during the week of 2 February 2015. PROFEL continues to raise the interests for the processed F&V sector at the occasion of meetings and contacts with decision-makers.

The PROFEL General Assembly took place 25-27 June 2014 in Finland. We warmly thank our Finnish members for the perfect organisation and a wonderful stay!
([M.GA/14/004](#))



PROFEL Processed Vegetables Conference

PROFEL's 9th Processed Vegetables Conference will take place on **Thursday 23 April 2015** afternoon in Brussels. The event will be organised around the theme:

Processed Vegetables: the ultimate solution to food waste?

At this occasion Wageningen UR will present the outcome of the research project commissioned by PROFEL regarding the role of processed vegetables in the reduction and avoidance of food waste.

PROFEL Autumn Meetings and KellenAGEP Cooperation

PROFEL's Deciduous Fruit Group and Fruit Preserves Group met on 22 October and 3 November respectively ([M.Fruit/14/021](#) and [M.Fruit/14/022](#)). The Technical and Legislative Committee, Canned and Frozen Vegetables Committee and Promotion Working Group met on the 4th of November. Mr Alfons Westgeest, Managing Director of KellenAGEP attended PROFEL's Vegetables meeting to present the KellenAGEP structure providing the association management services to PROFEL and to provide an overview of KellenAGEP expertise in communication

strategy and outreach tools for associations ([M.Veg/14/014](#)).

On the 20nd of November the annual meeting of the Dried Vegetables Group took place. The meeting was attended by Ms Maria-Teresa Scardigli, Vice-President of KellenAGEP, to welcome PROFEL members and to present the new Association Management structure ([M.Veg/14/016](#)).

For more information on the association management structure providing the services to PROFEL, please visit www.agep.eu or www.kelleneurope.com

School Fruit Scheme

PROFEL continues to raise the profile of processed fruit and vegetables in the context of the reform of the EU's School Fruit Scheme. PROFEL met with Rapporteur Mr Tarabella ([NS/14/018](#)) and Shadow Rapporteur Mrs Müller ([NS/14/017](#)) to draw attention to the role that processed F&V can play in achieving the nutritional and educative objectives of this scheme. The Rapporteur is now preparing his report, which is expected to be discussed in the AGRI Committee on 20/21 January 2015, with possible vote in February or March.

European Commission

On 1 November 2014 a new college of European Commissioners took office, with Mr Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg) as Commission President. New in the structure are the 6 Vice-Presidents who will steer and coordinate the work of a number of Commissioners.

The new Commissioners managing the portfolios of relevance to PROFEL are:

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development: Mr. Hogan (Ireland), former Irish Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government.

Commissioner for Trade: Ms. Malmström (Sweden), former European Commissioner for Home Affairs.

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety: Mr. Andriukaitis (Lithuania), former Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania.

Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs: Ms. Bieńkowska (Poland), former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Development.



"In Short"

- In July the finalisation of the negotiations for a free trade agreement with **Ecuador** has been announced, which will allow Ecuador to join its Andean neighbours Peru and Colombia in their trade agreement with the EU. Entry into force is not expected before mid-2016 ([Trade/14/007](#))
- The finalisation of the trade negotiations with **Canada** have been announced in September and the texts of the agreement have been published. Entry into force is not expected to take place before 2016 ([Trade/14/014](#)).



FIC Regulation

As of 13 December 2014 the Food Information to Consumers Regulation (Reg. 1169/2011) will enter into force. PROFEL has prepared a note highlighting the provisions which are relevant for PROFEL products, which can be used in combination with FoodDrinkEurope's guidance document. ([TLC.lab/14/19](#)).

Bisphenol A

On the 1st of January 2015 the French law banning BPA will enter into force. In July 2014 the French government published a note on the application of the French law ([TLC.Cont/14/029](#)). PROFEL collected questions on this note and transferred them to FoodDrinkEurope who will seek further clarification. In November, a report on BPA substitutes was released by the French government ([TLC.Cont/14/050](#)). The EFSA scientific opinion on BPA has been adopted in December and is expected to be published by the end of January 2015.

Contaminants

Chlorate: Since spring 2014 the German authorities have been enforcing the default level of 0,01mg/kg for chlorate on the basis of the Pesticide Regulation 396/2005. In Spring PROFEL requested temporary enforcement levels to facilitate EU trade.

Following discussions between Member States at the Standing Committee in September however, it was decided that Member States will make their own risk assessment and decide on a national level. As this may lead to different levels per Member State, PROFEL has prepared an overview of the information available per country. EFSA is expected to deliver its opinion on chlorate in spring 2015.

The EFSA opinion on **perchlorate** has been published in October 2014 ([TLC.Cont/14/046](#)).

Cadmium: The Cadmium Regulation confirming an increase to 0.20 mg/kg for celery, parsnips, salsify and horseradish, has been published in May 2014 and entered into force in June 2014. ([TLC.Cont/14/018](#)).

QAC: Regulation 1119/2014 on BAC and DDAC was published in October 2014, lowering the MRLs to 0.1 mg/kg. These levels will apply from 13/8/2015 as the transitional enforcement levels of 0.5 mg/kg will remain in place until August 2015.

Drained net weight/Welmec

According to the Food Information to Consumers Regulation, if the food has been glazed, the declared net weight of the food has to be exclusive of the glaze.

Following the concerns raised on the proposed Welmec method as reference method for the FIC regulation, PROFEL is now in the process of developing an industry methodology to determine drained net weight. A joint proposal has been received by the French institutes CTCPA and PFI. A meeting will take place on 15 January 2015 to fine-tune the proposal ([TLC.Misc/14/015](#)).

Labelling of Origin

Following the finalization of the consultant's study on mandatory indication of origin for unprocessed products, single ingredients and ingredients representing more than 50% of a food, the European Commission should present a report to the European Parliament and the Council by the 13th of December 2014. Delays are not excluded as political guidance is awaited by the new DG SANTE Commissioner Mr. Andriukaitis.

Tolerances

In October 2014, PROFEL, thanks to the task manager Ms. Kaffel, gave a presentation at the FoodDrinkEurope workshop on the problems that operators are facing when using the EC guidance document on tolerances ([TLC.Lab/14/020](#)).

AGENDA

- 12 January 2015 - 13h00 – Promotion WG - Brussels
- 23 April 2015 morning – TLC meeting - Brussels
- 23 April 2015 morning – Canned and Frozen Vegetable meeting - Brussels
- 23 April 2015 afternoon – PROFEL Vegetables Conference – Brussels
- 11 June 2015 morning– Deciduous Fruit, Joint Fruit and Fruit Preserves meeting – Paris
- 11 June 2015 afternoon – Executive Committee Meeting - Paris
- 12 June 2015 morning – PROFEL General Assembly – Paris
- 2 December 2015 – 18h30 – PROFEL Dried Vegetables Meeting – FIE Paris

