



ACTIVITY REPORT 2021-2022

This Activity Report provides for an overview of Europatat's work since the previous General Assembly in 2021, which due to the COVID-19 pandemic was held in a digital format on 10 June 2020.

We warmly thank Europatat's Board for its leadership through these challenging times and all associations and company members for their active support throughout the past year. Europatat's work will not have been possible without you!

THE ASSOCIATION

President's Foreword	5
Vision & Mission	6
Structure	7
Membership and benefits	9

KEY FIELDS OF ACTION

Policy dossiers	
Agriculture	11
Promotion	14
Plant Health	18
Food Safety	21
Trade	22
Sustainability	26
Research & Innovation	33

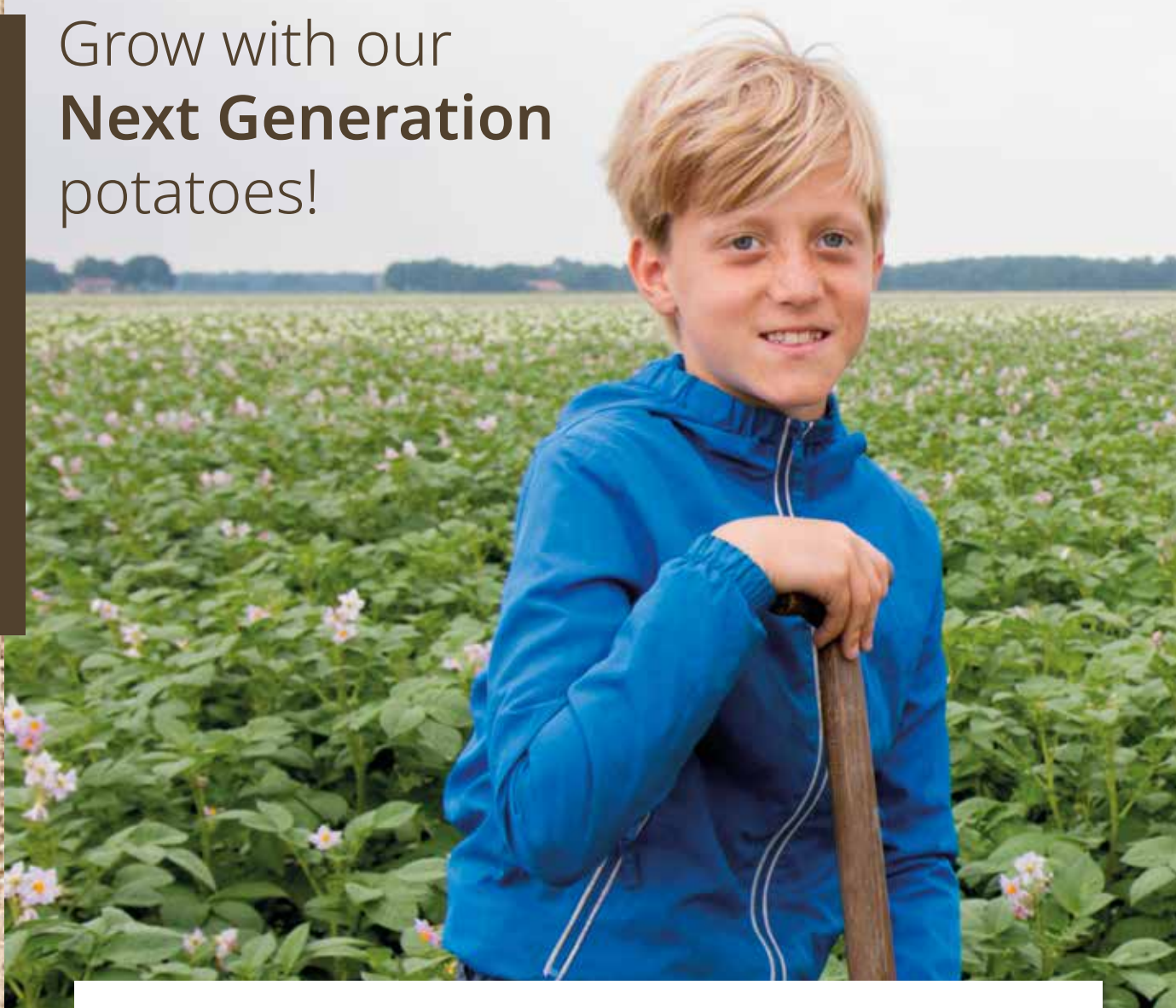
Public Affairs and Networking	36
-------------------------------	----

Communication	39
---------------	----

RUCIP	40
--------------	----

POTATO SECTOR DATA	42
---------------------------	----

Grow with our **Next Generation** potatoes!



Carolus, Twinner, Twister and Alouette have recently become available from various points of sale. These varieties offer a naturally high resistance to the main threat (i.e. *Phytophthora infestans*) to potato crops. This gives farmers greater harvest security and consumers a natural, fresh and versatile product in the kitchen.

Each variety in this range offers slightly different traits. Choose Carolus for a mild flavour and a floury quality. Delicious fried or baked in the oven. Alouette makes a supremely tasty mash. And bright yellow skinned Twinner brings a lovely firm bite to your salads. Twister tastes simply fabulous served with fresh vegetables.

The **Next Generation** varieties from Agrico. Strong and sustainable. Providing good yield, with little to no input. Suitable for many new generations worldwide. Our farmers like to put innovative potato varieties on the consumer's plate. **How about you?**

Say potato,
say **Agrico.**



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Dear Members,

This Activity Report is released on the occasion of the 2022 annual General Assembly of Europatat (30 May 2022), which, for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, is again organised in a physical format in the context of the World Potato Congress in Dublin (Ireland). We warmly thank our members and friends from the Irish Potato Federation for the invitation and for hosting this year “real” event, the first since the Europatat Congress in Oslo in 2019. We are really excited to gathering again the entire European potato family!

This is a very special year, as our association celebrates its 70th Anniversary. The “European Union for the Wholesale Trade in Potatoes” was established in 1952 in Paris, including members from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Seventy years later, our association counts 64 members in 20 countries in the EU and beyond and is more active than ever.

Seven decades after its creation, Europatat is also presenting a new vision and mission as part of its Strategy for 2022-2025. With this new strategy, Europatat aspires to change from a follower to a leader concept, being not only the “eyes and the ears” of potato traders in Brussels but also becoming the “voice” of the sector in the entire European Union.

To develop and establish the best strategy to follow and therefore ensure a right, smooth and solid guidelines for the coming years, the Europatat’s team and Board met several times in the second half of 2021. At the beginning of 2022, the new Strategy was also presented to and discussed with the Advisory Committee (Commission’s chairmen), which strongly supported the proactive vision for the 2022-2025 term. We are proud to present this new strategy that will allow the evolution of our internal structures, namely the Europatat Commissions, just in time for the renewal of the Chairmen mandates.

Europatat is also extremely proud of its team in Brussels. The tandem Berta Redondo (Secretary General) – Romans Vorss (Director of Technical Affairs) has shown an exceptional professionalism, dedication, learning capacity and fellowship since the very beginning and throughout the past months. It is a great opportunity for all of us to have such a team, as they are making sure that Europatat’s members are well listened and assisted in all dossiers on a daily basis and that the concerns and challenges of the potato sector are heard and understood by the European institutions and a large number of stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all Europatat’s members for the confidence they have given me during these four years of my Presidency. I have really enjoyed working with all of you and I have also learnt a lot during this mandate, as a professional but also and most importantly as a person. I also warmly thank my colleagues in the Board and the Advisory Group for their support, time and dedication. It has been a very enriching experience and I look forward to keeping supporting Europatat’s journey in these challenging times.

Gilles Fontaine
President of Europatat

THE ASSOCIATION

70 years representing European potato traders



In 2022 Europatat is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. The “European Union for the Wholesale Trade in Potatoes” was established on 12 January 1952 in Paris, including members from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Seventy years later, Europatat has become a well recognised international non-profit association that counts 64 members in 20 countries in the EU and beyond and is more active than ever.

Currently, the association comprises both national organisations and individual companies involved in the trade of seed, ware and early potatoes throughout Europe. Europatat’s members include a wide range of traders (including breeders, distributors, storers, packers, importers and exporters) delivering seed potatoes to farmers, as well as raw material to the food industry, packed potatoes to the retailers and food service sector.

OUR VISION

Bring potatoes to the table!

OUR MISSION

- **Represent** and **promote** the interest of the potato trade sector on a European and International level;
- **Protect** and **improve** the professional interests and the commercial function of the sector in Europe and beyond;
- Facilitate the **collection of data** and information;
- **Educate** consumers and decision-makers alike about the benefits of potatoes;
- **Connect** sector representatives and stakeholders through networking opportunities.



New Europatat Strategy 2022-2025

A new Europatat Strategy for 2021-2023 was due for approval at the 2021 AGM. However, considering the situation of the market and the changes on business procedures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Europatat’s Board and Advisory Committee decided in February 2021 that the work on the new Strategy should re-start only after the situation went back to normal. From September 2021 onwards, Europatat worked on a new strategy for the period 2022-2025 that aims to change from a follower to a leader concept. The new strategy will be presented and approved by Europatat’s General Assembly on 30 May 2022.

Structure

Board and Advisory Committee

Europatat is structured around a General Assembly, a Board and six commissions. This organisation enables, in spite of occasional conflicting opinions and interests, to define with an open mind a common policy defending the sector.

Board		
Gilles Fontaine President	Domenico Citterio Vice-President	Heero Gramsma Treasurer
Advisory Committee		
Tigran Richter Chairman Seed Potatoes	José Peláez Chairman Early Potatoes	Francisco Moya Chairman Ware Potatoes
Ben Muyschondt Chairman Packers	Thomas Herkenrath Chairman RUCIP	Jan van Hoogen Chairman Technical & Regulatory Issues

The Secretariat

The daily work of Europatat is conducted by the Secretariat of the Association, who is based in Brussels and is competent in various European languages.

Europatat's team, which is composed by Berta Redondo Benito, Secretary General, and Romans Vorss, Technical Affairs Director, is leading a proactive work of the Secretariat on several important topics for potato trade, always with the support of all the members and stakeholders across the potato value chain.





Think sustainable – use **VELUM[®] Prime!**

Your solution for safe and
effective nematode control

- Low application rates
- Unique safety profile for sustainable agriculture
- Gentle to soil and to beneficial organisms
- Flexible application techniques
- Reduced operational costs

VELUM[®] PRIME



*Consult country registration status; local registrations may differ.
Use plant protection products safely.
Always read the label and product information before use.*

MEMBERSHIP & BENEFITS

Europatat presently incorporates the national associations of the biggest potato trade partners in Europe as well as individual companies active in the potato trade.

In total, the Association currently has 62 members that represent 20 countries in the EU and beyond. More precisely, Europatat's membership is composed of **16 national associations, 42 companies and 6 associated members**. The complete list of members can be found at the end of this report.

The membership of Europatat is balanced between the different types of members and their focus. This guarantees a good balance of interests and a wide diversity of expertise is available to the association. In the coming years, Europatat seeks to reinforce even further its cooperation with companies and associations based in Southern and Eastern Europe in order to better reflect the reality of the potato trade in Europe.

Besides granting to the association the strengths of their support and their professional input, members of Europatat benefit from a wide range of services and advantages including:

- Having the ability to influence the European decision-making process and strengthen the position of the potato trade sector on the international trade scene;
- Having the ability to exchange views and develop common positions with colleagues engaged in similar activities;
- Enjoying the networking opportunities offered by an association with an international dimension;
- Two regular newsletters including the latest information on crucial developments in the potato trade and European legislation affecting the potato supply chain, as well as on the actions undertaken by the Europatat's Secretariat;
- Services of a multilingual Brussels-based Secretariat for fast answers to key questions relating to the potato sector.





fruit attraction

International Trade Show for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry

LIVE  Connect

Coinciding with



**We connect ideas, businesses and people.
Proud to be Fruit Attraction.**

**04-06 Oct
2022**

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Agricultural policy

Potatoes are an important component of the agriculture sector for the different goals of the European Commission in regard to jobs and growth, sustainability and health. Europatat is continuously monitoring the discussions regarding agricultural dossiers such as the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Organic regulation or the new Farm to Fork Strategy.

The new CAP enters into force

On 1 June 2018, the European Commission published the three legislative proposals for the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2021-2027. Based on nine broad objectives, these proposals include a shift from compliance and rules towards results and performance (from one-size fits all concept to the development of national strategic plans).

After more than three years of co-decision process where the European Council, Commission and Parliament worked on the new EU's agri policy, the European Parliament formally adopted the three CAP's regulations on 23 November 2021 and the Council did the same on 2 December 2021. The basic acts of the new regulations were therefore published in the Official Journal on 6 December. However, the so-called secondary legislation detailing the implementation of the new CAP, was still in the works at the time of writing this report. It is foreseen that the Commission adopts it in the half part of 2022. The new CAP includes higher environmental and climate ambitions aligned with the Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

A *"fairer distribution of CAP support, especially for smaller and medium-sized family farms and young farmers"* was also included in the adopted regulation. A total amount of €387 billion has been allocated to the CAP for the 2021-2027 period.

Member States (MS) had until 31 December 2021 to submit their national strategic plans. In 2022, the Commission will assess these plans and provide its observations to MS. The Commission has a total of six months to approve the plans in order for them to apply as of 1 January 2023 when the new CAP will enter into application. In the meantime, a CAP transitional regulation is applying from 1 January 2022.



In the past 12 months, Europatat has monitored the development of the discussions and informed its members accordingly through its Circular newsletter.

At this stage of the legislative process, Europatat will keep following this dossier to inform its members about the implementation of the CAP and any further discussions related to its application.



SAVE THE DATE

FRUIT LOGIS TICA

2023

8|9|10 FEBRUARY BERLIN

FRUITNET



Messe Berlin
200 years hosting the world

Your local contact: flb@scs-group.com

Organic

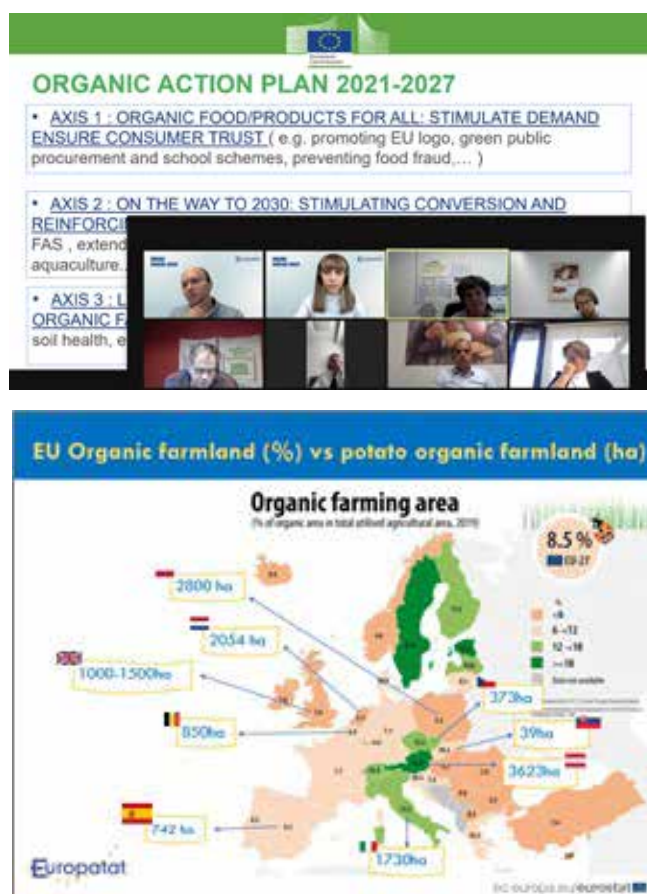
New rules for organic farming

The adoption of the new Organic Regulation was one of the most complex and lengthy in recent years. It took a long time for EU policy makers to agree on the final text of the Regulation. The new rules came into force on 1 January 2022. The aim of the new rules is to simplify production rules, strengthen control system, simplify certification for small farmers through group certification, etc. In addition to this, the Commission and Member States discussed and adopted specific rules covering areas such as production, international trade and controls.

Organic potatoes

Before the entry into force of the new rules, Europatat organised a meeting to discuss the upcoming changes and assess the impact on potato sector. The meeting took place on 22 October. It was attended by many members and the European Commission who gave a presentation on the new Organic Action Plan. Its aim is to facilitate the implementation of the new organic rules and stimulate the consumption of organic food products.

Before the meeting, Europatat members shared the data on the size of farmland dedicated to the production of organic potatoes in their Member States. The data confirmed that the production levels are very low, and prices are too low for operators to get involved. During the meeting, members also commented that the demand for organic potatoes is increasing but not substantially.



The latest EU survey Eurobarometer showed that the “organic farming” logo has the highest recognition by European consumers. Also, environmental and health concerns are the factors for high consumption of organic products.

Europatat closely follows discussions at the EU level regarding organic policy. Members have been informed on the progress of the adoption of the new organic Regulation and they were given an opportunity to comment on various drafts issued by the Commission for consultation. When communicating with the Commission, Europatat always stressed the need to continue raising awareness of the EU Organic Logo and its benefits.

Promotion and consumption

Europatat's joint promotion programme enters its third year of life!







With the aim of slowing down a long-term decrease in the potato consumption among Europeans between 18 and 34 years old (the so-called millennials), Europatat, together with the French, Irish and Flemish promotion bodies Bord Bia, CNIPT and VLAM, is running the promotion campaign *"Potatoes, prepare to be surprised – Europe's favourite since 1536"*.

The programme, which was launched in April 2020 and ends in December 2022, is co-financed by the European Commission under the EU promotion policy and aims to encourage the consumption of fresh potatoes among millennials in Flanders (Belgium), France and Ireland. Young consumers in other EU countries are also reached thanks to Europatat's contribution to the translation of recipes into Italian, German, Spanish and Polish.

To inspire millennials to easily integrate potatoes into their daily lifestyle, a hundred of new surprising potato recipes were prepared every year and shared on various social media channels as well as on the website www.preparetobesurprised.eu every year. Instagram is the backbone of the campaign, but other social media platforms such as Facebook, Pinterest or YouTube were also used to provide tips and tricks on how to easily integrate potatoes into millennials' daily lifestyle. Furthermore, a series of events or "potato surprises" with influencers and celebrities were virtually organised in Flanders (Belgium), France and Ireland to draw millennial's attention to the surprising versatility of potatoes.

Are you prepared to be surprised? Follow us!



DISCOVER THE TASTY VERSATILITY OF POTATOES!

Find the perfect recipe

Course

- Main dish
- Side dish


Theme

- Festive
- Daily
- World cuisine


Main ingredient

- Meat
- Fish
- Vegetarian


POTATO AND PEA MINESTRONE




POTATO PANCAKE WITH SMASHED AVOCADO AND SMOKED SALMON



MEXICAN-STYLE HUEVOS RANCHEROS



CHEESE STUFFED POTATOES WITH BACON AND EGG







The Irish Potato Federation is especially pleased to support the 2022 Europatat Congress on its 70th Anniversary.

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Castlecor Potatoes

Country Crest

IPM Potato Group

K&K Produce

Meade Farm Group

O'Shea Farms

Keogh's Farm

Sam Dennigan & Company

Seed Potato Co

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www.ipmpotato.com

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www.meadefarm.ie

www.osheafarms.com

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EU promotion policy

2022 Annual Working Programme

The European Union Agricultural Promotion policy sets out how EU funding can be used for information and promotion initiatives for European agricultural products inside and outside the EU. In order to ensure that the priorities for each year calls for proposals reflect the particularities of the potato sector, Europatat contributes to the drafting of the European Commission's annual work programmes, which establish the main priorities and budget lines of the promotion policy.

During the period covered by this Activity Report, Europatat sent as every year its comments to the European Commission ahead to the adoption of the 2023 Annual Work Programme. On this occasion, Europatat insisted on the Commission to include potatoes in the list of eligible products for programmes aiming at increasing the consumption of fruit and vegetables. Potatoes are highly nutritious and are an essential part of healthy and balanced diets, and thus are in fully line with the Commission's ambition to nudge consumers towards healthy diets.

For 2023, Europatat also called on the Commission to re-balance the budget for sustainability and organic as it does not correspond to the market reality, neither in terms of production nor consumption. Moreover, showcasing organic as the paradigm of sustainable production can be understood as an undervaluation of the rest of agricultural practices that are already having excellent results when it comes to sustainability goals!



Review promotion policy

The Commission is undertaking a review of the EU Agricultural Promotion policy with a view to enhancing its contribution to sustainable production and consumption. This revision is in line with the Commission's ambition to shift to a more plant-based diet with more consumption of fruit and vegetables, as stated in the Farm to Fork Strategy and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The Commission was originally expected to publish a proposal to update the current rules in the fourth quarter of 2021, but this has now been pushed back to the first half of 2022. At the time of writing this report, the proposal was not yet published.

In 2021 and 2022 Europatat has been very active on this dossier, both replying individually to public consultations on the topic and as a part of a coalition of other 10 EU agri-food associations. This group supports that any specific sector or products should be excluded from the EU Promotion Policy and that organic should not be presenting as the only agricultural practice with the capacity to contribute to sustainability. In this regard, the coalition met in November 2021 with five different cabinets of EU Commissioners (Agriculture, Trade, Internal Market, Fiscal affairs, Budget) and in January 2022 with the Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski to insist on these concerns.



Janusz Wojciechowski
@jwojc

Speaking to 12 organisations about their concerns over the EU promotion policy's 2022 annual work programme and the need to take these into account in the revision of the policy.

I'd like to reiterate the importance of promoting sustainably-produced all types of food in the EU.



Plant Health

EU Plant Health Regulation

EU Plant Health policy is one of the key policy areas followed by Europlant. Since December 2019, the European Union has in place the new rules on protective measures against plant pests which are referred to as “Plant Health Law”. It also means that all the secondary legislation which was based on the previous Plant Health Directive had to be revised to align with the new Regulation. For this reason, the Commission initiated the revision process of four Directives on potato pathogens such as *Clavibacter sepedonicus*, *Ralstonia*, *Synchytrium* and *Globodera*. The objective of this revision was to align the four old Directives with the new Plant Health Regulation (PLH).

The Commission prepared the new draft Regulations which will replace the current Directives. These drafts were discussed with Member States and with EU stakeholders at the specially organised virtual meeting in mid-December. As was explained by the Commission, the new drafts no longer focus on controls but rather on eradication and containment. These are the only two possibilities that the Plant Health Regulation and international standards offer. In addition to virtual meetings, the Commission also issued these drafts for a public consultation inviting general public and all interested stakeholders to comment during the period of four weeks. This consultation closed on 11 January.

Europlant was closely following the revision process of these legislations. Our Secretariat and two members attended the December meeting with the Commission. In addition to this, Europlant held a special virtual meeting for all members to discuss the Commission legislative proposals and it was decided that Europlant should respond to two consultations on *Ralstonia* and *Globodera*.

Europlant's comments on *Ralstonia* stressed that total eradication of this pest within all surface water is unrealistic and unnecessary. It will lead to additional burden and costs.

In case of *Globodera*, Europlant stressed that the full eradication of this pest is impossible. It was suggested that the future Regulation should focus on providing the measures in order to facilitate the eradication rather than setting unrealistic objective to eradicate the pest. Secondly, it was stressed that the supply of potato resistant varieties is limited so far. The mandatory use of such limited varieties will therefore, over time, lead to an increased selection pressure for more virulent *Globodera* populations.



Revision of the Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) legislation

In 2021, the European Commission published a study on options to update the existing legislation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material. The study concluded that the current PRM legislation functions very well but that it is outdated. It has also confirmed the continued relevance of certain key problems identified in the previous evaluation of the PRM legislation that was carried out in 2007 – 2008.

The PRM study has identified new challenges. In the past decade, there have been numerous new technical developments in the breeding and seed production sector and the forest reproductive material sector, which can only be partially addressed or not addressed at all, with the tools of the existing PRM legislation. The PRM study stressed that the current legislation needs to be aligned with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Europatat follows closely all the developments regarding the ongoing discussions on PRM legislation.

In the first half of 2022, the Commission held two public consultations. One consultation was issued by the Commission and was open to general public, stakeholders, etc. The second consultation was more technical, and it was issued by a contractor recruited by the Commission. This consultation was of technical nature, and it included detailed questions on the implementation of the current legislation and what could be improved.

In response to both consultations, Europatat stressed that seed potatoes cannot be treated the same way as other seeds, there should be no free movement of uncertified planting material within the EU, testing for VCU should become voluntary as most of the produced seed potatoes are destined for export. We are now expecting a legal proposal which should be released by the end of 2022.



25 March 2022

EU public consultation on the revision of the plant reproductive material (PRM) legislation

Europatat is the European Potato Trade Association, comprising both national associations and individual companies involved in the trade of seed, young and early potatoes throughout Europe and beyond. Our members include a wide range of traders (including breeders, distributors, growers, packers, exporters and importers) delivering seed potatoes to farmers, raw material to the food industry, and packed potatoes to the retailers and service sector.

Europatat would like to thank the European Commission for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. PRM legislation covers a wide range of planting material, however, Europatat represents traders in seed and ware potatoes. Therefore, our comments will address the revision of Directive 2002/56/EC on the marketing of seed potatoes.

The current PRM rules have successfully served the market and provided farmers and growers with high quality potato planting material. Therefore, the current revision should build on the success of the current legislation. We also would like to stress that all crops should not be treated the same way. There should be specific rules dedicated to potato planting material.

Please see below our proposals for changing the PRM legislation:

- We support the strict EU standards to protect the environment and agricultural production against the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases. **Therefore, the revised PRM rules should be aligned with the new EU Plant Health Regulation.** This is of particular importance for potato planting material as it can be planted for further multiplication and transported over long distances.
- All types of potato planting material should be covered by the same rules, including organic or any other special varieties for special uses. **There should be no free flow or use of any type of potato planting material without proper certification** to prevent the spread of plant health diseases. This also concerns Farm Saved Seeds (FSS) which can be used within a farm, but a farm can have sites over a long distance. Those seed potatoes should not travel from one area to another area without any phytosanitary control.
- If the Commission decides to propose an exemption for certain potato planting material from the scope of the future PRM legislation, then there should be an assessment done which would demonstrate that it will not lead to the spread of plant health diseases. Any exemptions should be in limited quantities (e.g. up to 500 kg as total delivery) and there should be assessments done on a regular basis to ensure that it remains a niche market to minimise plant health risks.

Europatat
European Potato Trade Association

High value potatoes for everybody

Table varieties



Acoustic



Accord



Cupido



Jazzy



Lady Christl



Melody



Musica



Orchestra



Soprano



Sound

French Fry varieties



Accord



Lady Amarilla



Lady Anna



Lady Jane



Lady Forte



Lady Luce



Lady Olympia



Lady Terra

Crisping varieties



Lady Alicia



Lady Amarilla



Lady Claire



Lady Rosetta



Lady Britta

Building on potential

Food Safety

EU Farm to Fork Strategy: new targets for reducing pesticides use

The EU Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. As part of this strategy, the EU Commission wants to set a target for reducing the use of pesticides and reinforce risk assessment. For this purpose, the Commission has initiated an evaluation of the current EU Directive on sustainable use of pesticides (SUD).



Europatat is closely following the revision process and with the help from members responded to all the consultations. The Commission was expected to issue a draft Regulation in March 2022 which would propose a target to reduce the use of pesticides by 50%. This target would apply at the EU level, and it would be up to EU Member States to decide how to achieve it. However, the release of the draft Regulation was postponed until June 2022. The Commission refused to share any more details about the upcoming proposal. Europatat will continue following this file and reporting to members.

Glycoalkaloids in potatoes

In December, the Commission issued for a stakeholder consultation a draft EU Recommendation on the monitoring of the presence of glycoalkaloids in potatoes and potato-derived products. As part of this Recommendation, EU Member States will have to perform monitoring of the glycoalkaloids α -solanine and α -chaconine in potatoes and potato products. In addition, the Recommendation sets the indicative level of 100 mg/kg as sum of α -solanine and α -chaconine and any exceedances have to be investigated to identify factors resulting in high levels.

Europatat reacted to this stakeholder consultation stressing that glycoalkaloids (α -solanine and α -chaconine) are naturally occurring toxins in various parts of the potato plant. This contaminant has been subject to a close monitoring by Europatat members due to health-related risks and many Member States already have in place either maximum or recommended levels that cover consumption potatoes and processed potato products.

It was also stressed that while there are risks associated with high-level exposure to glycoalkaloids, it also contributes towards plant resistance against various pests and pathogens. This is especially important, as the list of available plant protection products keeps diminishing under the EU Green Deal.



Trade and Market access

Every year the effect of globalisation is having an increasing impact on trade, and the European potato trade should position itself to keep pace of worldwide evolving consumer demands and to open up new markets. In the modern global economy trade is essential for growth, jobs and competitiveness.

Potatoes are traded mainly on the EU internal market, however the sector also shows a competitive edge in international markets, especially in the sub-sectors of seed potatoes and processed products. The European Union is one of the world's most open markets, with low external tariffs and a borderless single market. But for open trade to deliver its full range of benefits, it must be a two-way street. Europatat advocates that favourable trade environment should be built on the basis of fair and reciprocal trade opportunities both for import and export.

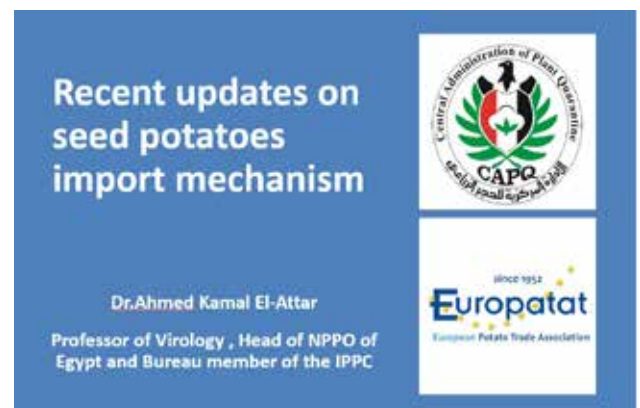
Egypt

In 2021, Egyptian Government notified to the WTO a proposal for import mechanism for seed potatoes. Europatat members expressed concerns regarding some of the provisions of the mechanism which would make difficult to export seed potatoes to Egypt.



For this reason, Europatat held a close dialogue with the European Commission and shared industry feedback on the proposed mechanism. In addition, the head of the Egyptian Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) was invited to present the new mechanism to Europatat members which took place in December 2021.

Europatat continues following the implementation of the legislation of the new import mechanism. Members still would like to clarify what will be required as part of the application process and how the implementation of the mechanism will work in practice.



EU-UK trade

Since 1 January 2021, import of seed potatoes from GB to EU is no longer possible. In 2021/2022, Europatat members continued raising concern about the impact of Brexit on the EU potato industry. Europatat discussed these issues with several affected members.

On 16 March, the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development held an "Exchange of views on the disruption in the EU-GB trade in seed potatoes" to which Europatat was invited to speak. Europatat used this opportunity to highlight the impact, explain how our members have been affected and the overall impact on consumers.

In its presentation, Europatat called on the Parliament and the European Commission to find a solution to resume bilateral trade in seed potatoes for a period of 3-5 years. Europatat explained that this impasse severely affects the European potato supply chain. The non-agreement denies EU's sector access to certain varieties which are only available in GB and limits the EU's export opportunities to GB. Many businesses across the EU including breeders, seed traders, seed growers, and consumption potato growers are affected.

During and after the hearing, the Commission insisted that the UK needs to commit to dynamic alignment to have access to the EU market.



About Europatat

Europatat represents traders in seed and consumption potatoes.

Our membership includes a wide range of business: breeders, distributors, storers, packers, importers and exporters.

Our members deliver seed potatoes to farmers, consumption potatoes to the food industry, and packed potatoes to the retailers and service sector.

Press release: @Europatat calls on the @EP_Agriculture for an urgent solution in restoring normal EU-GB trade in #seedpotatoes

Read the full statement and download the presentation given this morning by Europatat here bit.ly/37tYTVH

Europatat 70

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release
Brussels, 16 March 2022

Europatat calls on the European Parliament for an urgent solution in restoring normal EU-GB trade in seed potatoes

Today the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development held an "Exchange of views on the disruption in the EU-GB trade in seed potatoes" to which Europatat was invited to speak. Europatat used this opportunity to highlight the impact of there being no agreement on the European potato supply chain.

Other markets

Europatat continues assisting members when they are faced with trade barriers to export outside the EU. In 2021 and 2022, Europatat members were faced with a number of SPS-related challenges when intending to export to a number of non-EU markets such as Jordan or Turkey.

Europatat organised meetings of special working groups for interested members to see how the issues can be addressed.

When needed, the Secretariat approached the EU Institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Europatat also prepared position papers, statements, etc.

Regular participation in meetings organised by the European Commission allows Europatat to put SPS challenges on the EU agenda to make sure that Europatat members' interests are taken into account. This is especially important when the Commission conducts meetings and negotiations on future trade agreements with EU trading partners.



Packaging solutions for potatoes

TASTE OUR DIVERSITY IN POTATO PACKAGING

NNZ offers a wide range of packaging materials for potatoes. The product range includes (Bio) Paper-Vento® (paper and net), Carry-Vento® (film and net) Folio-Fresh® (film), Carry-Fresh® (label and net), Twin-Bag® (film and net), MrPaper, paper bags and trays. Furthermore NNZ offers a wide

range of transport packaging, such as jute bags woven and knitted net bags and different types of Big Bags / FIBC's. NNZ distinguishes itself by innovative strength, delivery reliability and availability within 24 hours. NNZ is a supplier you can rely on!

The IPPC ePhyto Solution

The International Plant Protection Convention's Phyto Solution has exchanged over 2 million digital phytosanitary certificates or ePhytos from inception to date. On average, this translates to more than 100,000 certificates exchanged each month. Moreover, as of 1 April 2022, 108 countries have registered in the ePhyto system, with sixty-five exchanging in full production and 40 using the web-based GeNS system.

The IPPC ePhyto solution is a tool that transitions the conventional paper phytosanitary certificate information into a digital phytosanitary certificate or "ePhyto". This electronic exchange between countries makes trade safer, easier, faster, cheaper and more environmentally friendly.

Europatat is a member of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and directly involved in all discussions related to the advancement of this project. In September 2020, Europatat co-signed a joint letter with other IAG members calling on governments to support the adoption of ePhyto to facilitate international agricultural trade.

On 16 March, Europatat held a virtual workshop dedicated to electronic phytosanitary certification. Interest in this topic has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three speakers were invited to give a presentation. First speaker from the Commission shared the information about the legal basis and what are the latest developments at the EU level regarding ePhyto. The second speaker from the French Ministry of Agriculture shared an update on the introduction of electronic phytosanitary certification in France. Finally, the speaker from IPPC ePhyto Solution shared the latest developments at the global level. For more information see the presentations below.

Further actions by Europatat will be discussed at the next meeting of the Seed Commission.

Contracting parties can exchange ePhytos with any other country on the system using their own national systems or using the web-based GeNS system. The GeNS allows countries without their own system to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the HUB.

The ePhyto HUB is the core of the system that facilitates the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).



Sustainability

The concern regarding sustainability along the food supply chain has been increasing in the political agenda in the past years. Since the publication of the Communication on the European Green Deal in 2022, the European Commission has been unveiling the different initiatives and actions that will guide Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The potato sector fully endorses EU's ambition to secure a fairer, healthier and more environmentally friendly food system. Europatat and its members are already taking responsibility towards relevant EU ambitions such as the transition to a circular economy including the reduction of plastic packaging and food waste, and a more sustainable use of chemicals and transports.

New Circular Action Plan

The European Commission adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) in March 2020 as one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal. Since its publication, the Commission has published different actions listed in the CEAP's action plan. For 2022, the following initiatives are expected:

- Legislative proposal for substantiating green claims made by companies, which will require companies to substantiate claims they make about the environmental footprint of their products/services by using standard methods for quantifying them.
- Review of requirements on packaging and packaging waste in the EU with the aim to improve packaging design to promote reuse and recycling, increase recycled content in packaging, tackle excessive packaging and reduce packaging waste.
- New policy framework on bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics to assess where using these plastics can be beneficial to the environment, and the criteria for their use.



The Commission was originally expected to publish these initiatives between the end of 2021 and the first half/summer of 2022. At the time of writing this report they were not yet published. Europatat will inform its members about the publication and impact for the sector of these policy developments at due time.

Implementation Single-Use Plastics Directive

Following the enter into force of the EU Directive on Single-Use Plastics (SUP) in July 2019, Member States had until 3 July 2021 to implement it at national level. The Directive bans certain single-use plastic products (some products made of expanded polystyrene such as food containers and all products made of oxo-degradable plastic) on the EU market.

When the deadline for the transposition of the SUP Directive arrived, the majority of EU countries were unprepared. Commission's delay on publishing its guidelines on the scope and definitions of the directive (they were unveiled on 31 May 2021, only four weeks before the implementing deadline) did not help to solve the confusion as there was too much room for interpretation of the SUP Directive. As a result, numerous MS were unsuccessful in implementing the mandatory requirements of the directive or in providing for exemptions and other measures. Adopted in a hurry, many of the provisions are still unclear and in need of interpretation.

Moreover, some countries are introducing even more restricting bans, such as on fruit and vegetable packaging, as well as national specific labelling regulations. This is the case of France, where all plastic packaging for fresh F&V and potatoes smaller than 1,5kg is prohibited since 1 January 2022. Spain has announced a new law and is currently working in the same direction.

The result of this inhomogeneous implementation is a mix of different packaging laws for consumers and companies in the EU that could undermine the integrity of the Single Market.

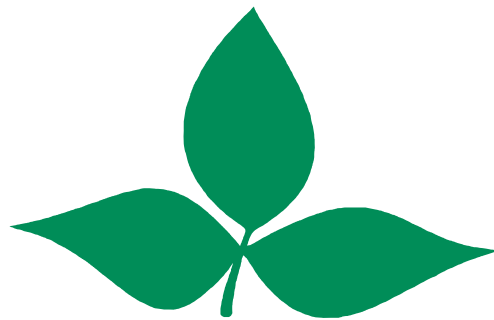


By request of the French potato sector, in July 2021 Europatat sent a reply to the Commission on the French Draft decree relating to the obligation to present for sale unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables without packaging made entirely or partly of plastic. Europatat defended that whilst the European potato sector is committed to reach Green Deal targets, it needs a suitable timetable to adapt itself and reach these goals. The extremely short deadline given to French business did not consider the time needed to find safe and sustainable alternatives, nor did to allow business' investments to switch to non-plastic packaging.

Europatat asked for a reasonable transition period to allow potato operators to perform the necessary adaptations to comply with the new French market obligations and to secure the free movement of potatoes within EU's internal market.

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Europatat signs EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Business

At the end of 2020, the EU Commission launched a discussion with EU stakeholders on the development of the future Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices. This code is one of the first deliverables of the Farm to Fork Strategy and an integral part of its action plan. It sets out common aspirations and indicative actions which actors 'between the farm and the fork', such as traders, food manufacturers and retailers, can voluntarily commit to tangibly improve and communicate their sustainability performance.

The Code of entered into force on 5 July 2021 setting a list of aspirational objectives as voluntary commitments for action on 7 key areas:

1. Healthy, balanced and sustainable diets for all European consumers
2. Prevention and reduction of food loss and waste
3. A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050
4. An optimised circular and resource-efficient food chain
5. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
6. Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership
7. Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains

For each of these objectives, the Code indicates a list of indicative, tangible and measurable actions that serves as the basis for a sustainable and healthy EU food system. For the more advanced who wish to make greater commitments, the Code also includes a framework for more ambitious, measurable and individual actions.



In October 2021, Europatat signed the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices, showing the commitments of the potato trade sector to contribute and support the transition towards a more sustainable food system that has already been initiated. Since then, the association has participated in all the meeting organised by the Code's organisers.

The "shift to a sustainable food system" does not start from scratch for our sector. Europatat invites its members to join the EU Code to show their ambitions in terms of sustainability regardless their size or activities!

Tackling Food Waste in the potato sector

The European Union and Member States have committed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which include a target to halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030 and reduce food losses along the food production and supply chains.

In the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission announced an initiative to set legally binding targets to reduce food waste. The legislative proposal, which will be part of the revision of Waste Framework Directive (WFD), is expected for 2023. The Commission is now preparing the impact assessment, which will include a public consultation that, at the time of writing this report, was not yet published.

Food waste should be reduced as much as possible, a message that the potato sector also fully endorses. For this reason, Europatat has been an active member of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste and its sub-group on food waste measurement since their establishment in 2016. By the end of 2021, Europatat's membership of the Platform was renewed for its second mandate (2022-2026).

As member of the Platform, Europatat contributed in October 2021 to the roadmap's consultation on the initiative to set EU food waste reduction targets. Europatat will also reply to the public consultation expected to the second quarter of 2022. Whilst the potato trade sector agrees with the Commission on the need for more coordinated and uniform measures at EU level, it also asks to avoid adding any administrative burden to those food supply chain actors who have already adopted internal strategies and processes to minimise food waste in their daily business.



EU's new sustainable food framework initiative

As announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU Commission will prepare a "horizontal framework law" on Sustainable food systems to ensure that all foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable whilst ensuring the integrity of the single market and promote a global transition based on common objectives and sustainability criteria.

The initiative will lay down general principles and objectives, together with the requirements and responsibilities of all actors in the EU food system. The policy options to be analysed by the Commission in its impact assessment include voluntary systems, a strengthening of current legislation, or the adoption of a new framework legislation. The impact assessment will also look at the economic, social and environment impact of this initiative, whose adoption is planned by the end of 2023.

European potato traders are already contributing to a more efficient, fair and healthy supply chain, and these efforts should be taken into account by the Commission when conducting a thorough assessment of the state of play of EU's food system's sustainability.



Europatat welcomes this initiative and the fact that a coherent and harmonised EU regulatory framework for sustainable food systems will be developed. Currently, many different approaches to sustainability are taken by Member States and retailers, which can lead to further fragmentation of the market. In this sense, the European potato sector fully supports the objective of ensuring the integrity of the single market while keeping regulations market driven.

Given the fact that Europatat's members will be directly concerned by this framework, Europatat replied to the roadmap's consultation opened in October 2021. A second public consultation to which Europatat will also reply was expected for the first quarter of 2022. However, at the time of writing this report, this was not yet published.

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Research and Innovation

The potato sector is continuously investing in research and innovation along the complete chain. The sector is always exploring ways to produce crops efficiently and economically, driven by customer needs and innovation with the aim of meeting consumer requirements for affordable and convenient potatoes and exploiting export markets with a range of potato varieties and improvements.

ADAPT: Developing heat- and drought-stress tolerant potatoes

Europatat is part of the international consortium of the research project ADAPT (*"Accelerated Development of multiple-stress tolerAnt PoTato"*), in which the complementary expertise of ten leading academic research institutions, four potato breeders, a screening technology developer, a government agency and Europatat come together to investigate the mechanisms underlying multi-stress resilience in potato. The main objective of ADAPT is thus to identify new breeding targets and match potato varieties to specific challenging environmental growth conditions of the future.

This project, which was launched in July 2020, will take place over the next two years with a total budget of 5 million Euro from the EU Horizon 2020 program (No GA 2020 862-858).

In the first year of stress experiments, a set of more than 50 different varieties was tested by Europatat members HZPC and Meijer Potato in their trial fields in Spain, close to Valencia, and in the Netherlands in Zeeland region. The data gathered was aligned with the results of controlled glasshouse experiments also obtained in 2021.

Moreover, on 27-29 October 2021, the ADAPT consortium held a meeting in Brno, Czechia, with all project partners to share the latest project's updates and to discuss next steps. The next meeting of project partners will take place in Wageningen, the Netherlands, at the end of June 2022.



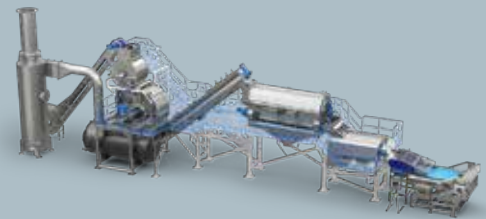
**Visit the official project's website (adapt.univie.ac.at)
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New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

On 29 April 2021, the European Commission published a study regarding the status of New Genomic Techniques under Union law. The study examined the status of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), taking into account the state of the art knowledge and the views of the EU countries and stakeholders.

The study concluded limitations to the capacity of the legislation to keep pace with scientific developments; these cause implementation challenges and legal uncertainties. Therefore, legal changes are necessary. The study has also confirmed that NGT products have the potential to contribute to sustainable agri-food systems in line with the objectives of the European Green for available translations of the preceding and Farm to Fork Strategy.

In October 2021, the EU Commission issued for a consultation a roadmap outlining a number of policy elements that will be considered in the development of policy options on how plants produced by certain new genomic techniques should be regulated in future.



Study on the status of new #genomic techniques under Union law

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Europatat responded to this consultation stressing that there is a need for clear rules and criteria to define plants produced by NGTs. Plants that are produced by new genomic techniques where the same result can be achieved through traditional breeding should be exempted from new regulatory requirements on NGTs. Also there is a need for a greater consumer awareness of NGTs, their potential, and their safety. Awareness campaign is needed. Further delays in adapting the current GMO legislation must be avoided.

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) is an important subject for the potato sector. Europatat has been very active on this topic and contributed towards various EU stakeholder consultations. Europatat is actively working together with other European stakeholders to find a reasonable approach to ensure that the potato sector can benefit from latest scientific discoveries, meet the targets set by the EU Green Deal, and allow for European growers to remain competitive on the international level.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & NETWORKING

Connecting the sector

Europatat annual Congress

In 2021, given the international and local restrictions linked to the sanitary situation, the Europatat Congress was organised for the first time ever in a digital format. On the 10th of June and under the title *"Stay connected – new strategies for the potato sector"*, the special virtual edition of the Europatat Congress explored how the potato sector can benefit the most from digitalisation.



To celebrate Europatat's 70th Anniversary, the 2022 Europatat Congress will take place on 29 and 30 May 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, within the framework of the World Potato Congress (WPC). These two events will re-connect colleagues and friends from the European and global potato community in the exceptional atmosphere of the Royal Dublin Society, located in the heart of Dublin.



All the information about next and previous editions of the Europatat Congress can be found at www.europatatcongress.eu

Europatat Commissions

The six Europatat Commissions allow Europatat to be continuously updated on key issues for the potato trade sector and to respond to all legal developments on the EU level in a quick and efficient way and thus carry out the main activities of the association.

Due to the restrictions that still were in place due to Covid-19, the meetings of these Commissions were organised along September, November and December 2021 in a virtual format, allowing all Europatat members to participate in the discussions. In overall, more than 50 members from 15 different countries participated in these and other ad-hoc virtual meetings on topics such as New Genomic Techniques, origin labelling, plant health, organic or ePhyto.

Thanks to the improvement of the sanitary situation, Europatat will start organising in-person meetings in order to facilitate the exchange of information and the networking possibilities for its members.

Representing the sector

In order to voice the professional views of the sector, Europatat regularly cooperates with the EU Institutions and stakeholders as the European representative organisation for the potato trade.

EU events and meetings

The Europatat secretariat and members participate on a regular basis in EU Advisory Groups whose work touches upon the potato trade. Committees of DG AGRI include Civil Dialogue Groups on the Common Agricultural Policy, Environment & Climate Change, International Aspects of Agriculture, Organic Farming, Quality and Promotion.

Europatat is also represented in the work of DG SANTE, particularly in the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health and other specific ad-hoc working groups. In regard to DG TRADE, Europatat regularly attends the Civil Society Dialogue meetings on trade issues and the Market Access Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues.

Meetings with potato traders

When the international travelling is allowed, Europatat participates at different trade shows and potato events to present the work of the association and multiply contacts with members and stakeholders of the sector. With these objectives in mind, in 2021 Europatat was present at Fruit Attraction in Spain, Potato Europe in Belgium and the Potato Variety Days in the Netherlands. In April 2022, Europatat attended the international trade fair Fruit Logistica in Berlin.



Where relevant, Europatat seeks to cooperate with other EU trade associations in order to maximise synergies and raise awareness on common concerns. Our association engages with the European Seed Association (ESA), the European Potato Processors Association (EUPPA), the European Snacks Association (ESA), the European Starch industry (Starch Europe), the European Fresh produce Association (Freshfel) as well as the major roof organisations in the food supply chain (COPA-COGECA, FoodDrinkEurope, EUROCOMMERCE).





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COMMUNICATION

Information flow is key for building policy positions, for networking and for accountability. Europatat has therefore developed several tools to communicate on a regular basis with its members and the outside world in the most efficient manner.

Communicating to the members

The main internal communication tools that Europatat currently uses are:

- **Alerts emails.**
- **The Europatat Circular**, which is disseminated twice per month, includes the latest information on crucial legislation and important developments within the potato trade. It also informs members on actions undertaken by the Association.
- **Europatat press releases and position papers** on a variety of topics to raise awareness for matters of interest to the potato sector.
- **The Europatat Extranet**, which is exclusive for members and contains documents such as position papers, presentations and minutes from meetings or newsletters. The Extranet also contains an exclusive digital directory of members, a forum and a browser notification system.

Improving Europatat's visibility

In order to increase the Association's visibility and highlight the latest activities of the Secretariat, the newsletter "Europatat Insights" is circulated within all Europatat contacts (internal & external) once every two months. Nowadays, the Europatat Insights reaches more than 500 subscribers!

The Secretariat is also continuously updating the official website www.europatat.eu and being active on Twitter, LinkedIn and its new Instagram profile with one main goal: to stay in touch with stakeholders, policy and decision makers and, more generally, to connect with people interested in the sector and the work that Europatat is doing.

FOLLOW US!





RUCIP

RULES & PRACTICES OF THE INTER-EUROPEAN TRADE IN POTATOES

Since 1956 RUCIP is the reference for the potato trade at national and international level. RUCIP can be used in all potato contracts between professionals in the potato chain (producers, trade, processor) as it offers a chapter on rules (the contract, the potatoes, cost and risks of transport, delivery and payment, complaints and disputes) and as well the possibility of expertise as arbitration much quicker than court proceedings. Once a clear reference of RUCIP has been mentioned on the contract signed by the concerned parties the RUCIP rules apply.

Since the RUCIP foundation by Europatat in 1956, it has been modified several times, to adapt to the demands of the trade and the technical evolution within the potato sector. The most recent version is effective since 1 January 2021.

Upcoming new RUCIP rules

To adapt the rules and practices of the inter-European trade in potatoes to the current practices in the sector, a thorough revision of the RUCIP rules has been done in the past couple of years by Europatat's RUCIP Working Group.

At the time of writing this report, the whole text was already revised and the final text was sent for comments to the national RUCIP secretariats. The new rules are expected to be finalised and published before the end of 2022.



National RUCIP secretariats are located in Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

Portugal and Poland are also currently joining as a National secretariats.



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World production and trade

Potatoes are an essential crop and are recommended as a food security crop by the United Nations as they can grow in any climate and conditions. Potatoes also take less time to grow and need less input than other vegetables.

In February 2022, FAO updated its data related to global potato statistics and it is available via its FAOSTAT database. The latest data includes statistics for 2020 and it covers “total production” (metric tonnes) and “total area harvested” (hectares) from 140 potato producing countries.

2020 Top potato world producers

China	78,184 MT (-17,52% compared to 2019)
EU 27	53,959 MT (+5,33% compared to 2019)
India	51,300 MT (+2,16% compared to 2019)
Ukraine	20,838 MT (+2,73% compared to 2019)
Russia	19,607 MT (-12,58% compared to 2019)
USA	19,251 MT (-2,45% compared to 2019)



European production and trade

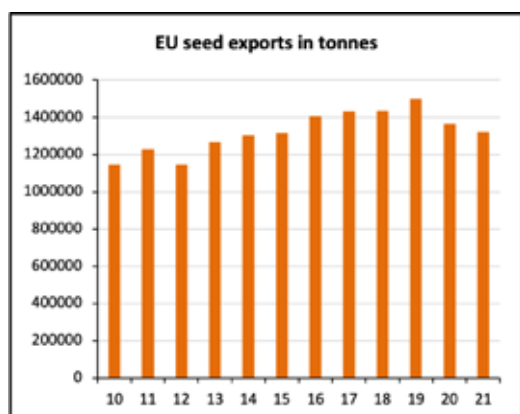
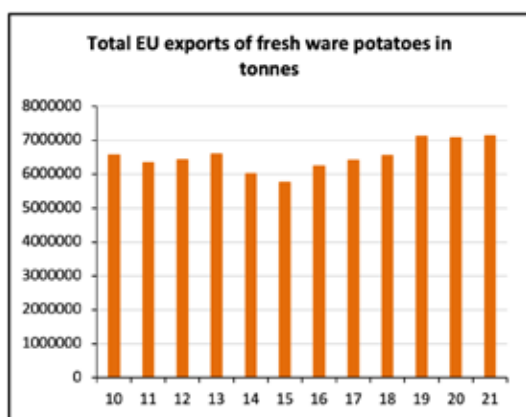
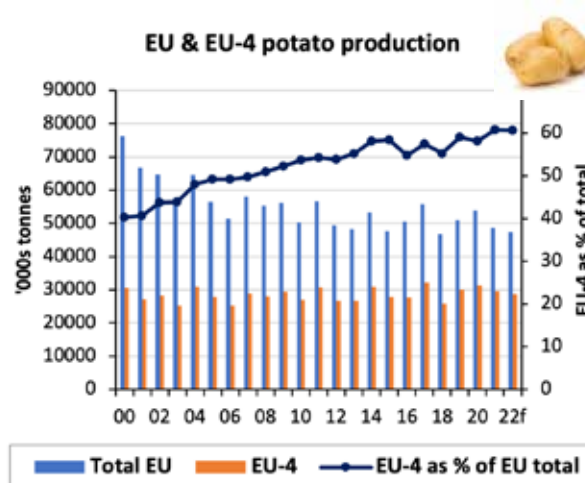
This information was kindly provided by Cedric Porter from World Potato Markets.



Figures from Eurostat show that 1,477 million hectares of potatoes of all types were planted in 2021, which was 3,8% lower than in 2020 and a new low. World Potato Markets has estimated that the total area will be down at least 2,4% in 2022 to 1,441 million hectares, which would be 10.1% smaller than the last pre-Covid area in 2019. When ex-EU member UK is added, the area could be at 1,578 million hectares, 2,4% down on last year.

A yield that averaged the five-year yield between 2017 and 2021 (32.9 tonnes/hectare for the EU) in 2022 would result in a crop of 47,456 million tonnes, which would be 2,3% less than in 2021 and the smallest crop since 2018. Difficult weather conditions could mean that the EU sees its smallest potato crop on record.

The EU-4 referred to in the chart are Germany, France, Netherlands and Belgium.



In terms of trade, the 27 countries of the EU exported a record 7,138 million tonnes of **fresh ware potatoes** in 2021, the largest volume on record, just beating the previous record set in 2019 and 0.7% more than in 2020. Those exports were worth €1,462 billion, which was 3,2% down on 2020 and 24% lower than in 2019. France was the largest exporter shipping a record 2,222 million tonnes. It was followed by Germany and the Netherlands which both also exported more than one million tonnes.

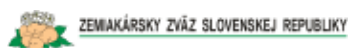
The EU exported 1,319 million tonnes of **potato seed** in 2021, which was 3.1% down on the 2020 total and 11.8% less than in the record year of 2019. The value of exports was €628,5 million in 2021, down 8,7% on the year before. The Netherlands accounted for 65% of exports. Just two other countries shipped more than 100.000 tonnes – France and Germany.

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