



ACTIVITY
REPORT 2023-2024

This Activity Report provides an overview of Europatat's work since the previous General Assembly in 2023, which took place in Gdansk (Poland) on 6 June in the frame of the Europatat Congress.

We warmly thank Europatat's Board, Advisory Committee and all associations and company members for their active support throughout the past year. Europatat's work would not have been possible without you!

The Europatat Secretariat





PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Dear Members,

Last year, my foreword for this activity report started with the statement that Europatat has never been more relevant and active than it is today. How true and correct this statement was, as it has been demonstrated by the work that has been done since our last Europatat Congress in Gdansk.

If the season 2022-2023 was "very demanding", the season 2023-2024 was a real challenge and there is an uncertainty about the next season. Talking to many of our members I could not find anybody remembering a market as we have seen it over the past period. Further implementation of new legal frameworks, ongoing and new international conflicts, and last but not least, nature itself left a clear footprint in our business. Sometimes the pure speed of certain developments seemed to be overwhelming. And still, you as Europatat members showed the ability and capacity to deal with all difficult aspects of an unbalanced market.

I am convinced that Europatat played a significant role in handling general topics as well as very practical specific issues for all of you. Europatat provides valuable support in understanding a wide diversity of subjects, often difficult in detail, and gives us a common voice when we need to address our standpoint towards other stakeholders of the value chain, European and international decision makers. We can see that it gets more and more important to express our opinion and to combine forces with other partners with similar interests. We managed to establish good working relations with other associations such as Euroseeds, EUPPA, European Snacks Association or Copa-Cogeca as a result of the implementation of our current strategy. Another important aspect was the consideration of the position of up and down market partners, which we are doing now as an active member of the European Potato Value Chain.

Thanks to our "translators" Berta and Romans, abbreviations such as CAP, PRM, SUR, NGT, PPWR, SUP and CSRD are not unknown words for us. We are able to discuss about complex and sophisticated topics in a professional way, getting an impressive amount of input from the outside and giving response to the most up-to-date questions concerning our business.

Being aware that the potato processing industry was, is and will be a major driver of the potato sector, we are paying constant attention to the promotion of fresh potatoes and the nutritional value of potatoes in general. We will continue to be a very active partner in existing European projects and to watch out for new opportunities.

For the successful work of our association, it is important to have professional personal and experts leading our commissions – which we both have – but I want to give credit to everybody who took an active part in the work of Europatat in the past year. I also would like to encourage all of you to contribute to the immense amount of diverse questions our business is facing today and will be confronted with in the future.

Today we are looking back to a difficult season and see again challenges ahead. Let's use our Europatat Congress 2024 in Brussels to talk about the necessary transition of our sector to be successful in the future.

Tigran Richter, President of Europatat

THE ASSOCIATION

More than 70 years representing European potato traders





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. More than seventy years later, Europatat has become a well recognised international non-profit association that today counts 67 members in more than 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 Mission

To **connect**, **represent** and coordinate a **common voice** for all actors in the European seed and ware potato trade chain towards European and international decision makers and other stakeholders.

Our Vision

Europatat wants to be recognised as a proactive representative body that actively engages with its network.



Structure

Board and Advisory Committee

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

Tigran Richter	Domenico Citterio	Heero Gramsma	Board
President	Vice-President	Treasurer	
Peter Ton Chair Seed Potatoes	Thomas Herkenrath Chair Consumption Potat	oes	Advisory Committee
Vlastimil Rasocha Chair RUCIP	Johan van der Stee Chair Sustainability	Florimond Despr Chair Technical 8	

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.





CARING FOR THE EARTH IS SUPPORTING THE SECTOR THROUGH OUTREACH.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS INNOVATING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS CAREFULLY SELECTING EACH SEED.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS SUPPORTING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS STAYING TRUE TO YOUR ROOTS.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING.
CARING FOR THE EARTH IS PROTECTING YOUR LEGACY.



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 67 members that represent more than 20 countries in the EU and beyond. More precisely, Europatat's membership is composed by 19 national associations, 41 companies and 7 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 past year, Europatat has welcomed new members from the Netherlands, France, Lithuania and Finland. We were glad to welcome all of them to the Europatat family!

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.

POLICY DOSSIERS

Agricultural policy

Potatoes are crucial for European agriculture due to their versatile nature, providing essential nutrients for millions of consumers while also driving significant trade in and out the EU, contributing to economic stability and enhancing agricultural diversity. In the European Union alone, potato production reached approximately 47 million tons in 2023, demonstrating its status as a crucial crop.

Market situation meetings

In order to monitor the developments related to potato production in Europe, Europatat organises online market situation meetings every 3-4 months that are open to all members.

During these meetings, participants not only share information about the status of the planting and harvesting of seed and ware potatoes in the European region, but also useful data regarding about the quality of the potatoes harvested, the situation in the cold stores and other important information regarding any pest or challenge affecting the potato season.





To accompany these meetings with official statistics and forecast, Europatat provides to its members an exclusive report prepared by World Potato Markets which is delivered around February, June in October.

This special report for Europatat members covers data related to potato production, potato crop usage and demand, EU and international trade (including seed, ware and frozen potatoes) and information on prices.



Potato production and seed potato viability

Many Green Deal initiatives and climate change are taking a heavy toll on EU potato production. Farmers have highlighted these concerns and challenges through regular protests held in Brussels and other European cities. These challenges also concern potato production in the EU.



In the past year, Europatat had several productive meetings with colleagues from Copa-Cogeca (the European association of farmers and agricooperatives) to discuss various challenges related to potato growing.

Seed potato availability was one of the key topics of discussion. The unfavorable weather conditions in 2023 significantly impacted potato production, resulting in lower quantities of available seed potatoes for farmers and larger tuber sizes. Europatat remains committed to working collaboratively with all actors in the potato supply chain to ensure a good cooperation and support within our industry.





OUR RESPONSE TO LATE BLIGHT

Meet our Next Generation varieties!

Our Next Generation varieties have a natural resistance to the potato disease late blight. The natural resistances in our varieties contribute directly to growers' yield security by significantly reducing the risk of crop failure. The varieties are the link between answering the global need for sustainability and increased yield security while maintaining excellent consumption characteristics.

Do you want to know more about our innovative Next Generation potato varieties? Please visit our website.

agricopotatoes.com



Promotion and consumption

New EU agri-food promotion policy still on hold

The legislative proposal reviewing the EU Agricultural Promotion policy, which was initially expected to be published by the end of 2021, is still on hold.

Since 2023, the publication of the amended Regulation (EU) 1144/2014 remained blocked due to the lack of internal agreement in the European Commission.

Given the European elections on 9 June and the consequent formation of new Parliament and Commission, this dossier will need to be followed by the new European legislators.

Currently, there is no planning announced for this dossier.

For Europatat, the EU Promotion policy should keep focusing on increasing the awareness and recognition of the merits of all European agri-food products and of the high and sustainable standards applicable to agricultural production methods in the EU.



Preparing the 2025 Annual Work Programme

EU's Agricultural Promotion is designed to open up new market opportunities EU agri-products and to help European agri-food businesses to strenghten the existing ones. In the case of fresh potatoes, this type of campaigns can help to increase the consumer's knowledge about our product, and therefore, to increase its consumption.

To ensure that the annual calls for proposals for promotion programmes reflect the particularities of the potato sector, Europatat contributes systematically to the drafting of the European Commission's annual work programmes.

During the period covered by this Activity Report, Europatat sent its comments to the European Commission ahead to the adoption of the 2025 Annual Work Programme. On this occasion, Europatat called on the Commission to:

- Maintain previous years' budget for a successful and fair EU promotion policy;
- Re-establish a strong budget for "generic" promotion in multi programmes according to recent submission and acceptance's statistics;
- Restore the budget balance between organic, sustainability and generic topics to achieve an equal and proportionate support for all sectors and sustainable agricultural practices

Promoting potatoes' versatility & health benefits amongst millennials

Following the success of the promotion campaign "Potatoes, prepare to be surprised – Europe's favourite since 1536" that ran from 2020 to 2022, Bord Bia, Europatat and VLAM have extended the programme's activities for three more years.

The joint initiative, which is co-financed by the European Commission under the EU Promotion policy, will run until December 2025 to **encourage** the consumption of fresh potatoes among millennials in Belgium, France and Ireland.

To slow down the negative fresh potatoes' consumption trend, the campaign puts fresh potatoes back in the minds and lives of millennials with a clear message: potatoes fit in a modern, healthy and sustainable lifestyle of millennials, because they are a tasty, versatile and high-quality food with good nutritional and health benefits!

To inspire millennials to easily integrate potatoes into their daily lifestyle, 65 new surprising potato recipes are added to the 300 ones available on the website www.preparetobesurprised.eu and social media profiles (mainly Instagram) for Belgium, France and Ireland.

Next to that, a series of "Potato facts" animations promote nutritional benefits of potatoes, sustainability facts and other cooking tips are developed in seven languages for reaching out a higher number of millennials in Europe. A number of collaborations with local influencers and media are also planned.

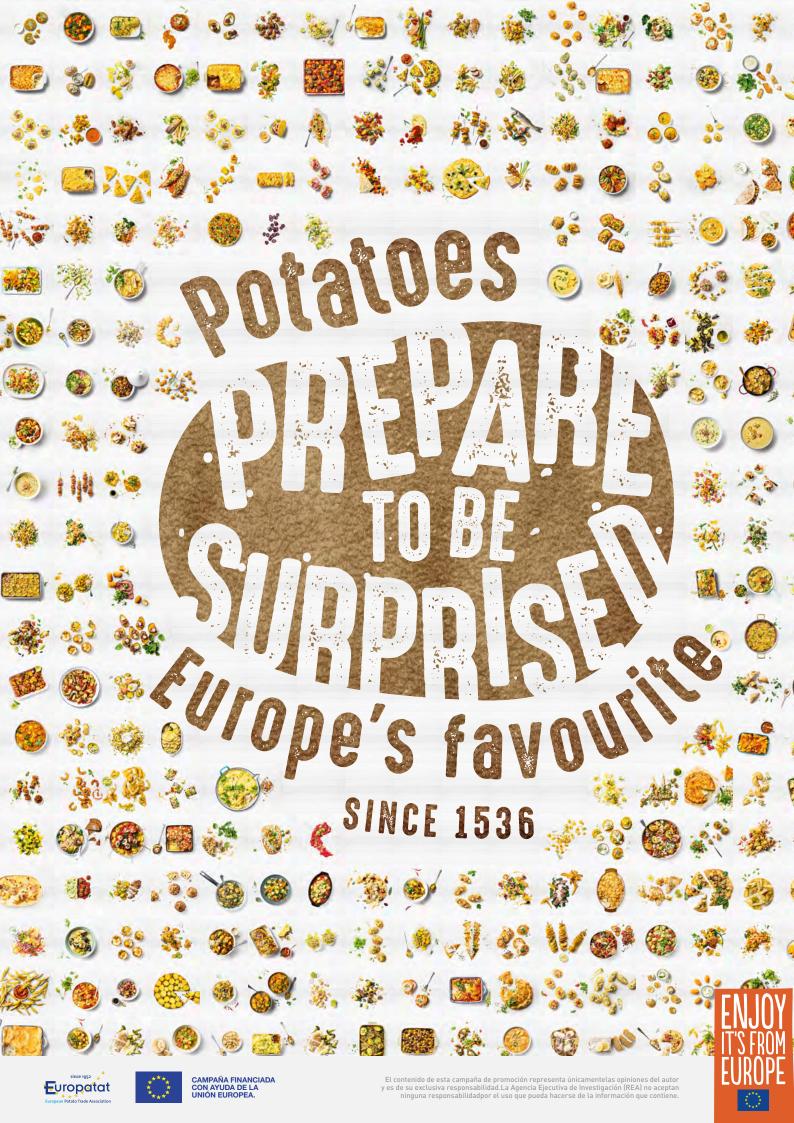
Europatat makes available a large number of materials to its members, don't hesitate to contact us for accesing them!

Are you prepared to be surprised? Follow us!









Food Safety

Transition towards sustainable farming

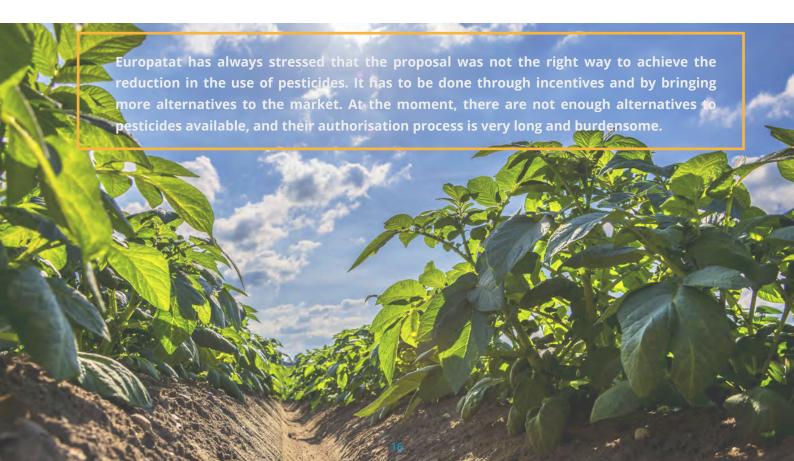
The current EU Commission has released many initiatives aiming to make EU food system fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. Sustainable use of pesticides is one of the key policies which aims to facilitate the transition of EU agriculture to become more sustainable.

In June 2022, the European Commission issued a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products (SUR).

The proposal was submitted to the European Parliament and the EU Council for their scrutiny. The European Parliament prepared a draft report, but a majority of MEPs did not support it. Following a debate on 21 November 2023, the European Parliament voted on the Commission's proposal, as amended by MEPs in plenary: 299 MEPs voted to reject the proposal, with 207 supporting it and 121 abstaining. The proposal was therefore rejected.

After this vote, the Commission withdrew its proposal.





Glycoalkaloids

In 2022, the European Commission has issued Recommendation 2022/561 asking EU Member States and business operators to test potatoes and potatoderived products for the presence of glycoalkaloids (α -solanine and α -chaconine).

In addition, the Recommendation set the indicative level of 100 mg/kg as sum of α -solanine and α -chaconine in potatoes and processed potato products and any exceedances have to be investigated to identify factors resulting in such levels.



Europatat has organised several discussions with members to decide on how potato traders can contribute toward the Commission monitoring exercise. This contaminant is already subject to close monitoring of Europatat members due to health-related risks, and many Member States have in place either maximum, or recommended levels, that cover consumption potatoes and processed potato products.

Glycoalkaloids play an important role in securing plant natural 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.

Europatat has joined several projects that are run by research institutes to ensure that our members are updated on the latest scientific developments. In addition, Europatat, together with other Potato Value Chain partners such as EUPPA, Starch Europe and European Snacks Association, held a virtual webinar dedicated to the latest research on glycoalkaloids.

Nickel

In 2023, the European Commission issued for a stakeholder consultation a list of possible changes to the nickel maximum levels for various food products. For potatoes the maximum limit is proposed to be set at 0.9 mg/kg (for peeled potatoes). Such level was proposed based on the EFSA opinion issued in 2020.

It is expected that the new Regulation introducing the maximum level for nickel in potatoes will be published in summer 2024 and the new level will apply from 1 July 2025. It means that all potatoes placed on the EU market for human consumption from that date will have to comply with the new level.

Europatat consulted its members on the proposed maximum level. Many members have shared their data suggesting that most of traded potatoes have low residues of nickel and therefore, will be able to comply with the future level of 0,9 mg/kg in peeled potatoes.





Plant Health

Since December 2019, the European Union has in place the EU-wide rules on protective measures against plant pests which are referred as "Plant Health Law". These rules aim to modernise the plant health regime, enhancing more effective measures for the protection of the European Union's territory and its plants.

They also aim to ensure safe trade, as well as to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the health of our crops and forests. EU Plant Health is one of the key policies followed by Europatat.

Wireworms

In recent years, there has been an increase in the spread of certain pests. The European potato industry, for example, has been severely impacted by the increased presence of wireworms.

Some examples of damaging wireworms include Agriotes lineatus, Agriotes obscurus, Agriotes sputator, Agriotes sordidus, Athous haemorrhoidalis, Limonius californicus and Ctenicera cuprea.

The presence of wireworms across EU Member States has significantly increased in recent years, severely affecting the quality of grown potatoes. This results in unmarketable potatoes or alternative use, leading to financial losses for growers and increased food waste. The problem extends beyond potatoes, impacting other major crops as well.

In December 2023, Europatat released a statement asking for information about ongoing research on wireworm control. This call helped establish good working relationships with some industry experts.

Europatat has also been invited to speak at the inaugural European Wireworm Workshop taking place in Oslo, July 2024.



Late Blight

Late blight remains a significant challenge for potato crops in certain western, central, and northern European countries. According to Euroblight, the estimated annual cost of late blight, including control measures and losses, is around €900 million.

However, the challenge is becoming increasingly complex. The emergence of new, aggressive strains in Europe has raised concerns about the effectiveness of current fungicide programs.

Euroblight's monitoring has identified several new clonal lineages with troubling characteristics. These strains cannot only spread rapidly but may also exhibit resistance to some commonly used fungicides.

Europatat is working with other stakeholders to address this issue by collaborating on a joint action list and raising awareness among EU and national policymakers.

This issue is to be discussed at the upcoming Europatat Technical and Regulatory Commission meeting in Brussels in May 2024 on the context of the Europatat Congress.



Let's cultivate our new varieties Mikado and Argana

today to unlock the potential of Mikado and Argana

Mikado

- your optimal choice for early potatoes with beautiful skin finish
- High yield
- Strong virus resistance
- Perfect for washing and packing



Argana

- when you desire robust big tubers combined with a very high yield
- Strong virus resistance
- Strong blight resistance
- Early maturity



Revision of the Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) legislation

On 5 July 2023, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material (PRM). It would replace the 10 PRM directives that currently lay down the rules for seeds, tubers, cuttings, seedlings and young plants.

EU Directive 2002/56/EC on the marketing of seed potatoes has also been incorporated in the Commission proposal

Europatat closely follows all the developments regarding the adoption of the PRM legislation and held several discussions with members to identify priorities for our sector.

European Parliament, Belgian Presidency and the European Commission to advance the position of our sector and to make sure that in future legislation seed potatoes are not treated in the same way as seeds. Seed potatoes and regular seeds have distinct characteristics and require different handling procedures. Seed potatoes pose a higher risk of spreading plant diseases, especially when transported over long distances.

Following the adoption of the EU Parliament's Agriculture Committee report, Europatat co-signed a joint statement with a broad coalition of stakeholders representing the PRM sector and its users in the EU, including Copa-Cogeca, Euroseeds, Europatat, Coceral, the European Beet Growers (CIBE), and CEPM Maïz'Europe.

The main aim of this statement was to emphasise the importance of maintaining the balance achieved in the original proposal from the European Commission.





During the Plenary in April, the European Parliament adopted a position which includes many derogations and allows for the exchange of all kinds of PRM between farmers without a proper oversight from the Authorities. Europatat will always insist that any derogations must be specific with some requirements for traceability and quality controls.

Berlin 5|6|7 Feb 2025

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The leading trade show for the global fresh produce business.

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Trade and Market access

The European Union has an ambitious agenda for a more sustainable food systems and trade policy. Europatat, as a European trade association, advocates for a trade environment based on fair rules, which take into account existing international standards for both import and export.





Statement on limited availability of seed potatoes

In September 2023, Europatat issued a statement addressed to all third countries that import seed potatoes from Europe.

In this statement, Europatat explained that the weather in summer 2023 was unfavorable for growing seed potatoes, which was going to result in lower yields. Consequently, Europatat members anticipated that the 2023 season would exceptionally result in a shortage of seed potatoes not only in total volume (especially in seed sizes 28 -55 mm) but also regarding certain classes (E class, which is mostly required by importing countries) and varieties.

This would lead to an overall limited supply, particularly impacting overseas deliveries. Therefore, Europatat recommended to countries around the world that rely on the import of EU seed potatoes extending for one year the maximum size of traded seed potatoes from the current 55 mm to 60 mm. This would improve the availability of seed potatoes for export destinations.



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European indoor trade event for the potato chain. From growing to processing and marketing.



KORTRIJK XPO **BELGIUM** 24,25 & 26 NOV



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EU-UK trade

Since 1 January 2021, import of seed potatoes from Great Britain (GB) to the EU is no longer possible. Europatat members continue raising concern about the impact of Brexit on the EU potato industry in general.

Before Brexit, Scotland was an important producer and supplier on the EU market of seed potatoes. Many EU growers chose to use GB seed potatoes for various reasons. For example, high grade Scottish seed potatoes, that are classified at basic grade, are often used for multiplication for input into the EU seed supply chain because of lower levels of disease and virus.



In 2023, Europatat went to Scotland and England to discuss the latest state of play on EU-GB trade in seed potatoes and what can be done to improve the current situation.

Following regular dialogue, at the regular meetings between the EU and UK Authorities, to restore the trade in seed potatoes the European Commission have approached Defra, confirming their interest in conducting an audit, which, if successful, could potentially lead to opening access to the EU market.

The Commission is specifically requested an audit of the high-health areas such as Scotland, Northumberland, and Cumbria, to ascertain whether seed potatoes from these areas could potentially be allowed to be imported into the EU.

In response to these news, Europatat organised an internal meeting of the working group on EU-GB trade in seed potatoes to discuss potential actions to facilitate the discussions between the Commission and UK Gov. It was agreed that Europatat has to prepare a document outlining the impact on the EU potato industry of not being able to import seed potatoes from Great Britain.

Egypt

Egypt has become one of the biggest importers of seed potatoes from the EU. Europatat maintains a good dialogue with the Egyptian Authorities via the EU Delegation in Cairo or via colleagues in the Egyptian Embassy in Brussels.

In September 2023, Europatat had a meeting with the Egyptian Embassy colleagues to explain the challenges that EU exporters were facing because of the bad weather conditions last summer which had an impact on potato production.

Europatat is committed to continue working with the Egyptian counterparts to ensure good and productive relationships.





The Irish Potato Federation is proud to support the Europatat Congress 2024.

IPF MEMBERS	WEB	TELEPHONE
Castlecor Potatoes	www.castlecorpotatoes.ie	+353 22 48228
Country Crest	www.countrycrest.ie	+353 1 8437061
IPM Potato Group	www.ipmpotato.com	+353 1 2135410
K&K Produce	www.kkproduce.ie	+353 1 8347586
Meade Farm Group	www.meadefarm.ie	+353 46 9053198
O'Shea Farms	www.osheafarms.com	+353 51 437030
Keogh's Farm	www.keoghs.ie	+353 1 8433175
Sam Dennigan & Company	www.samdennigan.ie	+353 1 8010500
Seed Potato Co	www.seedpotatocompany.com	+353 1 8425055



Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

In 2022, East African countries notified to the WTO a draft standard, which specified the certification requirements for pre-basic, basic and certified seed potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).



Europatat members have raised several concerns regarding the draft Standard stating that many of the proposed provisions should be revised to provide more clarity. Europatat has gathered the feedback from members and submitted an official response to the European Commission and directly to East African Countries.

In response, Europatat was informed that many of our comments have been taken into account and the standard was going through its final adoption stages.

The IPPC ePhyto Solution

The ePhyto Solution of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) continued to reach new milestones with three million certificates exchanged since its pilot in 2017. ePhyto certificates are digital formats of paper phytosanitary certificates attesting that plants and plant products do not carry pests and diseases that could impede trade or threaten economies and the environment.

This makes trade cheaper, faster and safer by eliminating fraud and bureaucracy often associated with producing and exchanging paper certificates.





Europatat is a member of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and is thus directly involved in all discussions related to the advancement of this project. The ePhyto use keeps growing around the world and Europatat is glad to be part of this initiative.

The Europatat Secretariat keeps its members updated on the latest developments regarding the development of ePhyto.ww

Sustainability

The concern regarding sustainability along the food supply chain has been increasing both in the political agenda and at company level in the past decade. At business' level, more and more companies have embarked or are starting a journey to assess and monitor their sustainability impact. The basis of the current corporate social responsibility is a strategy that seeks a balance between the social, environmental and economic aspects. These three aspects provide the basis for the 3 Ps: People, Planet & Profit.

Inspirational checklist for Europatat members

To reply to new environmental, social and market demands and to achieve EU Green Deal's goals, Europatat created in 2022 a new Sustainability commission as a platform for internal discussion and exchange of information and best practices among potato traders.

The new commission rapidly received a great support from Europatat members and, shortly after its creation, a working group (WG) on potato sustainability indicators was set up.

In the past year, the WG has been meeting virtually once a month to analyse how potato companies can measure their sustainability impact according to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

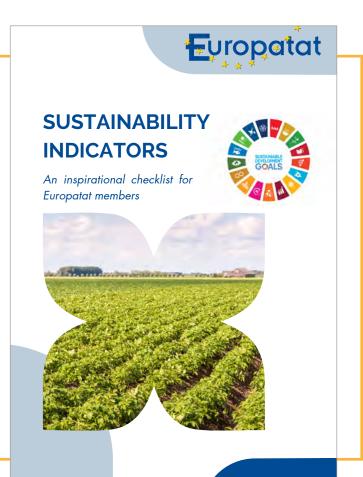


The main deliverable of this task is an guiding document, which serves as an inspiring checklist for Europatat members, focusing on the UN's SDGs. The document includes a detailed analysis of each SDG, along with specific targets and indicators related to the potato supply chain.

The aim of the so-called "Sustainability Indicators - An inspirational checklist for Europatat members" is to support and guide Europatat member's efforts to contribute to the SDGs and thus accompany them in their sustainability journey.

The checklist is to be presented to all Europatat members at the physical meeting of the Sustainability commission during the Europatat Congress on 23 & 24 May 2024 in Brussels.

New actions on the field will follow, stay tuned!



New EU's packaging rules: The PPWR unpacked

After two years of intense negotiations following the publication by the European Commission's proposal for a Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), the EU Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement on 4 March 2024. On Friday 15 March, EU Ambassadors endorsed the provisional political agreement, paving the way to the its adoption by the European Parliament, which was done on 24 April.

Following the EU elections in June 2024, the newly elected Parliament will have to approve the provisional agreement by means of a "corrigendum" to the text drawn up by the lawyer-linguists.

The text will need then to be published in the Official Journal. and will only apply after 18 months of its entry into force.

Furopatat 27 February 2024 Europatat is the European Potato Trade Association, comprising both national association companies involved in the trade of seed, ware and early potatoes throughout Europe Given the intense technical and political inter-institutional negotiations on the Proposal for a Regulation Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWR) that are currently taking place under the Belgian Presidency of the Council, Europatat wishes to insist on the following messages regarding Article 22 / Annex V, point 2: Europatat reiterates and defends the essential role of packaging all along the potato supply chain:
 Packaging is fundamental to ensure food safety and quality. Exposure of potato tubers to light can result in the greening of the potato skin, which potentially can be related to formation of glycoalkaloids and in high doses harmful to consumers. Secondly, potatoes exposure to light can eyconstantials and in ingit does animate to consumers. Sectionly, potardes expanded to light can cause the sprouting, which leads to loss of quality and results in food waste.³

• Packaging provides reliable consumer information such as traceability, nutrition, quality and indication of the origin in line with the objectives of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy; · Packaging allows potato producers and businesses to differentiate their offer from the competition and consumers to identify the product and facilitate the purchasing decision in base of economic, culinary and/or sustainability criteria. 2. Europatat insists on the need to allow other high-performance materials and recycled plastic under point 2 of Annex V to be used for smaller formats of potato packaging. This will allow potato packers to keep investing and testing alternatives materials to reduce the use of virgin plastic in packaging, and to achieve the targets set by Article 7 of the PPWR on minimum recycled content in plastic packaging. Furthermore, a less restrictive point 2 of Annex V will incentivise the potato sector to develop an ambitious plan for the recyclability of potato packaging as alternative. This plan would include concrete Improvement measures such as: setting recyclability percentages for all types of materials; developing a strategy to transition from multi-material to single-material packaging for better integration into recycling channels; and establishing a progress plan with a precise implementation timetable, taking into account the advances already made in some of the leading countries in this field. 3. Europatat maintains the request to include a clear definition of "fruit and vezetables" and timefra curopates maintains the request to include a clear ceriminon or fruit and vegetables and universities for the adoption of the list of exceptions necessary to safeguard plant health and food after) in the EU.

In a sector where businesses' decisions and investments must be taken in a medium and long-term basis, legal clarity and homogenisation are vital to ensuring the competitiveness and sustainability of potato. companies around Europe. ¹ EFSA Risk assessment of glycoalkaloids in feed and food, in particular in potatoes and potato-derived produtitips://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsa.europa.europa.eu/en/efsa.europa.eu/en/efsa.europa.eur **Europatat**

Some of the main aspects of the final text are the following:

- Recycling targets for 2025 (65%) and 2030 (70%)
 for all main packaging materials remain;
- From 1 January 2030, plastic packaging should contain a certain minimum amount of recycled plastic (with the exception for compostable packaging);
- From 1 January 2030, single-use plastic packaging for unprocessed fruit and vegetables of less than 1,5 kg will be banned from the EU. Examples of exceptions will be included in guidelines to be published by the Commission 2 years after the entry into force of PPWR, but Member States will be in charge of publishing the list of exceptions in their countries;
- Member States will be able to maintain packaging restrictions to materials other than plastic adopted before the date of application of the PPWR.

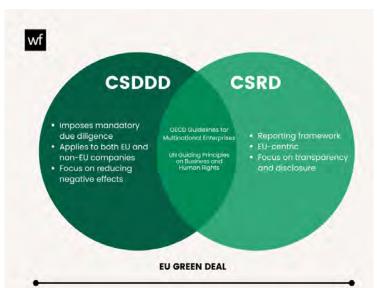
Since the publication of the PPWR, and given its impact for potato traders in Europe, Europatat has not only been constantly informing members about any developments on the file, but also sending input to and meeting with the co-legislators (EU Parliament and Council) and joining forces with other European stakeholders.

An analysis of the final text and its consequences for the potato sector is to be made at the physical meeting of the Consumption potatoes commission during the Europatat Congress on 23 & 24 May 2024 in Brussels.

New EU reporting and due diligence rules

To achieve the goal of being a climate-neutral continent by 2050, the European Union has published several initiatives in the past years.

Among these new regulations are the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).



Useful deadlines:

- The CSRD entered into force on 5 January 2023.
 The first companies will have to apply the new rules for the first time in the 2024 financial year, for reports published in 2025.
- was reached by the EU Parliament and Council in December 2023. On 15 March 2024, EU Ambassadors endorsed the provisional text paving the way to the official adoption of file at the last Plenary of the European Parliament on 24 April 2024. Once formally adopted, Member States will have two years to transpose the CSDD into domestic law. It can be expected that companies will have to start applying the requirements in 2025/2026

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Navigating the corporate sustainability reporting jungle

On 24 January 2024, the Agri-food chain Sustainability Roundtable, of which Europatat is an active member, organised a webinar on Corporate Sustainability Reporting. The objective of this webinar was to unpack the EU's corporate sustainability reporting obligations and policies, from the EU Taxonomy to the CSRD and the CSDDD.

The webinar, moderated by Europatat's Secretary General Berta Redondo, was an excellent opportunity to share, discuss, and better understand how these two new pieces of legislation will affect European agri-food businesses.

A further analysis of the impact for the potato sector is to be made at the physical meeting of the Sustainability commission during the Europatat Congress on 23 & 24 May 2024 in Brussels.



Corporate Sustainability Reporting in the Agri-Food Chain

24 January 2024

EU introduces binding reduction targets for food waste

On 7 July 2023, the European Commission finally released the awaited initiative to set legally binding targets to reduce food waste. The legislative proposal is part of the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. After initial discussions, the European Parliament adopted its negotiating position, which includes:

- Higher binding reduction targets to be met at national level by 31 December 2030: at least 20% in food processing and manufacturing (instead of 10% proposed by the Commission) and 40% per capita in retail, restaurants, food services and households (instead of 30%).
- Targeted solutions to reduce food waste, such as: promoting "ugly" fruits and veggies and keeping an eye on unfair market practices; encouraging intelligent packaging intended to extend the shelf-life or to maintain or improve the condition of packaged food especially during transportation and storage; and clearer date labelling.

Given the European elections in June 2024, the negotiation between the 3 institutions (the so-called trilogues) will start under the lead of the new elected Parliament.

As an active member of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, Europatat will keep informing its members about any development related to this legislative proposal in particular, and about food waste prevention initiatives in general.



Europatat and WASTELESS project

Launched in January 2023, the EU Horizon Europe project WASTELESS aims to develop innovative tools and methodological recommendations for measuring and monitoring food loss and food waste along the food supply chain in the EU.

Europatat is part of the multidisciplinary consortium formed by 17 institutions from 14 EU countries and coordinated by UTAD (University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal). Within the project, Europatat is supporting the dissemination of project's goals, results and other related key information.

The third consortium meeting of WASTELESS met in Brussels (Belgium) on 25 and 26 April 2024, hosted by EuroFIR and Europatat.





Join WASTELESS Community of Practice to collaborate, exchange ideas, and work towards innovative solutions to contribute to tackling food losses and waste in Europe!

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: 4 years of intense potato research



Developing multi stress tolerant potatoes

Europatat is part of the international consortium of the research project ADAPT ("Accelerated Development of multiple-stress tolerAnt PoTato").

Launched in 2020, the EU-funded ADAPT project culminates in June 2024, aiming to make potatoes more resilient to future climate challenges. The project has achieved significant results, including:

1. **Potato research network:** Built a strong network to continue for the benefit of potato research.



- 2. Understanding potato stress acclimation: Gained insights into how potatoes react to heat, drought, waterlogging.
- 3. **Potato stress resilience**: Learned how different potato genotypes handle combined abiotic stress occurring under real field conditions.

- 4. Advanced phenotyping and field trials: Highthroughput phenotyping in glass houses and field trials using drones and environmental sensors.
- Detailed insights into stress adaptation in potato: Monitoring critical moments during potato growth and tuber formation revealed specific signatures and molecular responses to be explored in future breeding.
- 6. Powerful data analysis pipelines: Established analysis pipelines for processing and analysis of huge data sets from field trials and high-throughput studies covering a large set of commercial potato varieties.
- 7. Using the new knowledge networks: Improved understanding of stress reactions as a basis for fine-phenotyping and marker development for future potato breeding.

ADAPT results are to be presented at the Europatat Congress in Brussels on 24 May 2024. In addition to that, the ADAPT consortium will gather together to review the results and conclude on the project for the final meeting taking place in Bonn on 29-30 May 2024.

Visit the official project's website (adapt.univie.ac.at) for more information

PATAFEST: Fighting against potato emergency pests



Europatat is part of the consortium of the project PataFEST, which is funded under Horizon Europe programme. This project is managed by 18 partners around Europe, including the international cooperation with Ecuador.

The goal of PataFEST is to reduce:

- the risk of introducing and spreading emerging potato pests that could endanger EU agriculture and
- the presence of soil-borne pathogens in the potato postharvest activities.

The selected threats in this project are:

- Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum and its vectors affecting potato and causing Zebra Chip disease within the crop cycle (preharvest threat) and
- Soil-borne pathogens such as Fusarium sambucinum, Colletothricum coccodes, and Helminthosporium solani causing high incidence of rot and skin blemish on potato tubers during postharvest storage (postharvest threat).

Europatat's participation in this project is of great benefit to its members. Climate change is having an increased impact on the way potatoes are grown and increases the risk of spreading pests that will have a great impact on potato growing.





Europatat members were informed about this project during the virtual meeting of Technical and Regulatory Commission in December 2023.

The last consortium meeting took place in Vitoria, Spain at the end of January 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2024 in Czechia.





STATIONS DE LAVAGE, TRIAGE & CALIBRAGE WASHING, SORTING & GRADING MACHINES

Spécialiste du lavage, triage et calibrage de pommes de terre et légumes racines pour les stations de conditionnement.

Specializing in washing, sorting and grading potatoes and root vegetables for packing plants.







LÉGUMES PLEIN CHAMPS OPEN FIELD VEGETABLES

Pommes de terres - Carottes - Oignons - Pommes - Noix - Navets - Céléris Potatoes - Carrots - Onions - Apples - Walnuts - Turnips - Celery



New Breeding Plant Techniques

On 5 July 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs). This proposal was part of a package of legislative proposals aimed at supporting the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal was submitted to the Parliament and EU Council for scrutiny.

Europatat held several discussions with members to define its priorities and adopted the association's position providing comments on the proposal. All in all, Europatat welcomed the proposal, which introduced two categories of products produced using NGTs.

State of play:

Within the Council, Member States are still discussing their position. Many countries have some reservations. Some countries would like to see a full ban on patents.

At the same time, the Parliament discussed the proposal and later concluded its first reading by adopting a position during its last Plenary of the mandate in April 2024.

MEPs agreed with the Commission proposal to have two different categories and two sets of rules for NGT plants. NGT plants considered equivalent to conventional ones (NGT 1 plants) would be exempted from the requirements of the GMO legislation, whereas other NGT plants (NGT 2 plants) would still have to follow stricter requirements.

Europatat published a statement where the chairs of the Europatat's Technical and Regulatory Commission stressed that it is important to embrace innovation when it allows for a more efficient food production. Also, it was mentioned that it is important to raise awareness among industry and the general public about the safety and distinct nature of NGTs compared to GMOs.





PUBLIC AFFAIRS & NETWORKING

Connecting the sector

Europatat annual Congress

In 2023, the Europatat Congress took place for the first time ever in Poland, more concretely in the beautiful city of Gdansk. Under the title "The Changing Geopolitical Landscape and the Future for Potato Trade", the annual Europatat gathering focused on the impact of geopolitics for international agri-food trade and on the effect of EU's Green Deal's goals and new consumption trends for the potato sector inside and outside Europe.









In order to create a meeting for all potato professionals on the edge of a new potato season, Europatat organises its annual congress every other year in Brussels, the heart of the European Union. Under the theme "European Potato Trade in 2030: a sector in transition", the 2024 event will focus on the main environmental, economic and social challenges for the potato sector and traders for the coming years, but also on the solutions and opportunities that new tools and techniques can deliver.



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

Europatat Commissions

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.

To facilitate the participation of Europatat members to the meetings, and to reduce the carbon footprint of the associations' activities, the meetings of these Commissions are now organised in a virtual format. In the past year, more than 20 virtual meetings and webinars were organised!



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 the renewed Civil Dialogue Groups on International Aspects of Agriculture, Organic Farming and Quality and Promotion.

Europatat is also represented in the work of DG SANTE, particularly in the Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems, in the EU Platform on Food Losses and Waste, and in 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 industry stakeholders

Europatat cooperates with other EU trade associations in order to maximise synergies and raise awareness on common concerns. In this light, the 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), the European Fruit and Vegetable Processors Association (PROFEL) as well as other major roof organisations in the food supply chain (COPA-COGECA, FoodDrinkEurope, EUROCOMMERCE).

Meetings with potato traders

Europatat team attends all trade shows and events related to the potato sector in order to present the work of the association and multiply contacts with members and stakeholders of the sector. With these objectives in mind, in 2023 and 2024 Europatat was present at Potato Europe in Belgium, Fruit Attraction in Spain, the Potato Variety Days in the Netherlands and Fruit Logistica in Berlin. Europatat also organised several physical and virtual bilateral meetings with members throughout the past year!







Now it's time for ethylene gas

Restrain offers a unique and innovative solution to get the most out of the stem growth of your seed potatoes or suppress your sprout growth without residue at a fair price!

Sprout control: Restrain technology effectively inhibits the growth of sprouts on potatoes by utilizing a continuous very low concentration of ethylene gas. This natural and chemical-free approach ensures that potatoes stay fresh and marketable for longer periods.

Flexibility: As there is no harvest interval for Restrain ethylene growers, distributors and factories optimise supply chain flexibility throughout the year.

Easy implementation: Restrain's hassle free technology is easy to implement, making it suitable for both small and large-scale potato stores.

Efficacy: Ethylene inhibits sprouts, maintains quality and has similar weight losses compared to chemical sprout inhibitors.

Great value: the best alternative to replace CIPC.

Sustainable solution: Restrain technology offers an ultra low carbon footprint and residue free alternative for sprout control.

Energy savings: The Restrain CO2 extractors control CO2 levels and reduce the running times of the main fans.



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.

Strenghthening 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!











TRUSTED SOLUTIONS FOR TARGETING NEMATODES & SOILBORNE DISEASES

Strike and TELONE™ fumigant products are effective tools to manage soilborne diseases in potatoes (including nematodes, Verticillium wilt, common scab, Rhizoctonia, Colletotrichum, Fusarium, Pythium, and Phytophthora). Our products suppress soilborne diseases and nematode activity while promoting native beneficial soil microbes. This leads to increases in plant production efficiency, allowing growers to produce more potatoes on less land while also reducing crop production inputs.

REMEMBER, THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM A POOR START.





To learn more:

www.TriCalGroup.com



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 (produces, 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.

New RUCIP rules to be published in 2024

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.

The revision of the articles is finalised and national RUCIP secretariats are sharing their last comments. The new rules are expected to be finalised and published in English in 2024.

Advantages

- Faster procedures
- Professionals involved
- Confidentiality
- Precise, practical and reliable



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World production

In January 2024, FAO updated its data related to global potato statistics which is available via its FAOSTAT database. The latest data includes statistics for 2022 and it covers "total production" (metric tonnes) and "total area harvested" (hectares), and present the results for 140 potato producing countries.

World potato production: 375 million metric tonnes

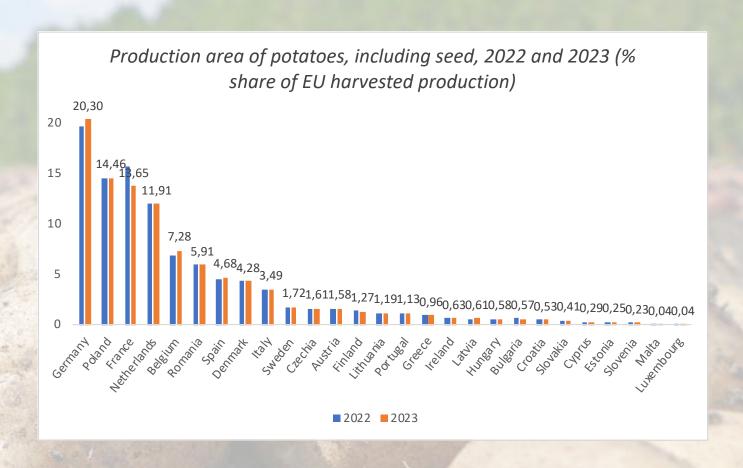
2022 Top potato world producers China 95,63 MT (+1,33% compared to 2021) India 56,16 MT (+3,46% compared to 2021) EU 27 47,49 MT (-6,23% compared to 2021) Ukraine 20,90 MT (-2,19% compared to 2021) Russia 18,89 MT (+3,14% compared to 2021) USA 17,79 MT (-4,48% compared to 2021)



European production

According with Eurostat, a large majority of the EU's harvested production of potatoes in 2022 and 2023 came from just five Member States; these were Germany, Poland, France, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Area for production of potatoes, including seed, in 2023































National Associations



















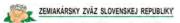




















Associated Members

















Companies





















































































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