



ASSEMBLÉE DES RÉGIONS EUROPÉENNES FRUITIÈRES, LÉGUMIÈRES ET HORTICOLES
ΕΝΩΣΗ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΩΝ ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΗΣ ΦΡΟΥΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΛΑΧΑΝΙΚΩΝ
ASSEMBLEA DELLE REGIONI EUROPEE FRUTTICOLE ORTICOLE E FLORICOLE
ASAMBLEA DE LAS REGIONES EUROPEAS HORTOFRUTICOLAS

PRESS RELEASE

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3rd European meeting of sweet chestnut, in Bergerac, September 20th and 21st, 2012

The production of sweet chestnut has future, it is an important production for the countries of Europe with 250 .000 Ha planted and 170 .000 tons produced. It constitutes an important resource for many rural areas, on the environmental and economic level. It allows the continuity of the biodiversity and strongly contributes to environmental quality and of landscape of each region.

Among the principal European producing countries one finds Spain (with Galicia and Andalusia), Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Apulia), Portugal (Norte), Greece (Macedonia) and France (southern is and southern west). But China quickly becomes a frightening rival on the European market with its production of 1,620,000 T!

The production of sweet chestnuts must thus face several challenges:

- Because of the globalization of the exchanges, new diseases and new pests such as the gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) made their appearance and represent a serious threat.
- Climate change and its episodes of drought and strong winds.
- The evolution of the modes of consumption, the competition of China and Turkey are redirecting the chestnut towards ready-to-use products of nibbling.

These difficulties are reflected on the production, which is only maintained with difficulty in several countries.

The reasons to gather the producers are thus numerous. Since 2010 the delegations of the principal producing countries have met in various cities to swap on common problems, to define priorities and joint projects. In 2010 the meeting place was Ourense in Galicia in 2010 and last year, in Braganca, Portugal.

This year it is France which welcomes the sweet chestnut producers, **September 20th and 21st in Bergerac.**

On the agenda:

- How to maintain the potential of production in Europe by a better exploitation of the traditional chestnut grove and to stimulate the new plantations?
- Which technical and technological innovations?
- How the chestnut can fully benefit from the new Common Agricultural Policy?
- Presentation of the white paper of European sweet chestnut

More info on www.ctifl.fr/JourneeCtifl/Eurocasta/venue.html

The main missions of the AREFLH (Assembly of the European Regions producing fruit, vegetables and plants) is to

- Represent its 27 members regions from 6 countries in Europe
- Defend the economic and social interests of the fruit, vegetable and horticultural sectors to the European authorities
- Facilitate the exchanges of experiences, partnerships and common projects between regions and between professional organizations;
- Make strong proposals on the main stakes which condition the future of the fruit and vegetables productions in Europe.

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