



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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### Creation of a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for fruit and vegetables

The research and innovation commission of the AREFLH has just decided to create a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for fruit and vegetables. In association with Freshfel, the AREFLH will be leader of the project which will group research, experimentation and transfer centres, and organizations representing the sector for production and trade.

The aim of the European Union is to promote a policy of innovation which makes it possible to transfer the results to the end-users from fundamental and applied research. The objective of this partnership is to present to the Commission the innovation and research projects for the 2014-2020 framework programmes. Let us recall that these programs are catalysts of the future innovation programs, seeking to ensure the diffusion throughout the progress chain.

The sets of themes suggested for the PEI are:

- Sustainable production and agro-ecology: sustainable systems of production, cutting the use of pesticides, minimization of residues
- Access to markets (adapting products to the markets: new niches, new products such as the 4<sup>th</sup> range)

On November 19th, the AREFLH will take part in the conference “The EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability - Priorities and Delivery Mechanisms” in Brussels, during which the fruit and vegetable EIP will be developed.

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The main missions of the AREFLH (Assembly of the European Regions producing fruit, vegetables and plants) is to represent its 26 member regions from 6 countries in Europe and to :

- Defend the economic and social interests of the fruit, vegetable and horticultural sectors with the European authorities
- Promote the exchanges of experiences, partnerships and joint projects between regions and professional organizations;
- Actively seek new solutions for the main issues which affect the future of the fruit and vegetable production in Europe.

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