

# ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS PRODUCING FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Annual Report

[www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org)



2017





# ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS PRODUCING FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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**FOREWORD** by  
**SIMONA CASELLI**

## Foreword by Simona Caselli, President of AREFLH



Our two colleges are essential to the life of AREFLH, they make our singularity. It is through the work of the Bureau, Board of Directors, Commissions and working groups that exchanges and debates of ideas take place and that the positions we are stating in Brussels with the European authorities are constructed.

The choice of the "AREFLH 2025" strategic project in 2016 allowed us to launch a new dynamic, with a permanent presence in Brussels, which showed its results in 2017.

The year 2017 was particularly marked by the publication of the White Paper on the F&V CMO, presented to the European Parliament in early September. It has been a collective work and is a reference document on this subject.

AREFLH has also positioned itself as a privileged interlocutor of the European institutions.

Shortly after the first signs of peach and nectarine market crisis, our quick request for intervention was heard and taken into account by the Commission to help producers victims of this crisis. In addition, our network of experts in the regions and producer organisations has enabled us to bring our expertise and respond to the various public consultations launched by the European Commission this year.

The entry into force of the "Omnibus" Regulation has been followed with particular interest, with significant changes being made to the latest implementing regulations (891/2013 and 892/2013) concerning the fruit and vegetable CMO. One of these changes concerns the funding of mutual funds, an aspect that AREFLH has been promoting for a long time.

Furthermore, the focus has been, and still is, on the negotiation that will lead to the formulation of the post-2020 CAP. Monitoring this issue will be fundamental to the future of the European fruit and vegetable sector.

I would also like to mention the development of the positioning document on "unfair commercial practices", which is a disruptive element with serious repercussions on businesses.

Finally, let me draw the attention on the expansion of our associative base with new members: the Aosta Valley (observer), AOP Italia, CIOP, AMC Austria, Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives, Hyères Hortipole and the OP of the Cimes .



ABOUT AREFLH

## About AREFLH

### Objectives and missions

The Assembly of European Regions producing Fruit, Vegetables and Ornamental Plants is an association created in 2000 on the initiative of a group of Spanish, French and Italian regions.

It represents the voice of the fruit, vegetable and horticultural regions and their producer organisations in Europe.

The specificity and strength of AREFLH lies in its original structure, as it is composed of two Colleges: **the College of Regions** and the **College of Producers**. The complementarity of these two colleges allows a collective work and the definition of common positions between regions and representatives of producers.

#### Our missions :

- Representing and defend the economic and social interests of regions and producers of the fruit and vegetable and flower sectors in European and international institutions.
- Promoting the exchange of experiences, partnerships and joint projects between associate members.
- Being a force of proposals on the main policies that impact the fruit and vegetables and horticulture sector.

### Governance and administrative team



**PRESIDENT**  
**Simona Caselli**  
Minister for the Agriculture,  
Hunting and Fishing at Emilia  
Romagna Region, Italy



**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**Jean-Louis Moulon**  
President of IDfel Val de Loire

**COLLEGE OF  
REGIONS**  
Chaired by Simona  
Caselli

**COLLEGE OF  
PRODUCERS**  
Chaired by Jean-  
Louis Moulon

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**  
Chaired by Simona Caselli

**BUREAU**  
President, Vice-President, Treasurer,  
Secretary



**Secretary General:** Pauline  
Panegos  
s.general@areflh.org



**EU Policy officer and  
AREFLH representant in  
Brussels:** Andrea Tivoli  
europe@areflh.org



**Communication and  
administration officer:**  
Laetitia Forget,  
communication@areflh.org

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## Working Groups

### **The CMO group of experts:**

It is composed of members from both Colleges. This group monitors the CMO reform in order to propose amendments for a more attractive and operational CMO. Experts also assess measures of operational programmes, in particular environmental and crisis management measures, and they suggest improvements.

### **The Research and Innovation Task Force**

AREFLH, in partnership with Freshfel and EUFRIN, has set up a European Task Force dedicated to research and innovation specifically for the fruit and vegetable sector. Created in 2014, this group has developed a strategic agenda highlighting the sector's R & D priorities (SIRA).

### **'Promotion and Markets' Commission**

It encourages the exchange of information, experiences and best practices between regions on F&V communication programmes and healthy eating education (cf. AREFLH Regio'Com guide). This committee also defends a strong and continuous communication and promotion policy to the main European bodies through an effective lobbying action.

### **The Committee of Directors of Associations of Producer Organisations**

It is composed of APO directors from all member regions of AREFLH. It regularly gathers to analyse the progress of the main issues handled by the College of Producers. The group also exchanges information on specific topics in relation to their own structures.

### **Eurocasta, the european network for chestnut**

The network gathers the chestnut European professionals. Together they share their views on common issues. See page 29

### **The Flowers and Plants Working Group**

This commission is being developed, it is currently designing its future work objectives

## Our members in 2017

### College of Regions

**New members :** Valle d'Aosta (observer)

#### Belgium

Flandres

#### Spain

Andalusia

Catalogna

Murcia (observer)

#### France

Nouvelle Aquitaine

Normandie

Bretagne

Centre -Val de Loire

Occitanie Pyrénées Méditerranée

Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

Pays de la Loire

Auvergne Rhône-Alpes

#### Italy

Basilicata

Emilia-Romagna

Piemonte

Provincia Autonoma di Trento

#### Greece

Western and Central Macedonia (observers)

#### Portugal

Valle do Tajo (observer)



### College of Producers

**New members :**

AOP Italia

CIO P

AMC Austria

Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives

Hyères Hortipole

OP des Cimes

#### Belgium

VBT

#### Spain

COEXPHAL

Afrucat

PROEXPORT

#### France

Interprofession F&L d'Alsace

APFELSO

AOP Jardins de Normandie

Cerafel

Fédération des Fruits & Légumes d'Occitanie

Chambre d'agriculture PACA

IDfel

#### Italy

Assomela

Finaf

Gruppo VI.VA

CIO

Romandiola

AOP Piemonte

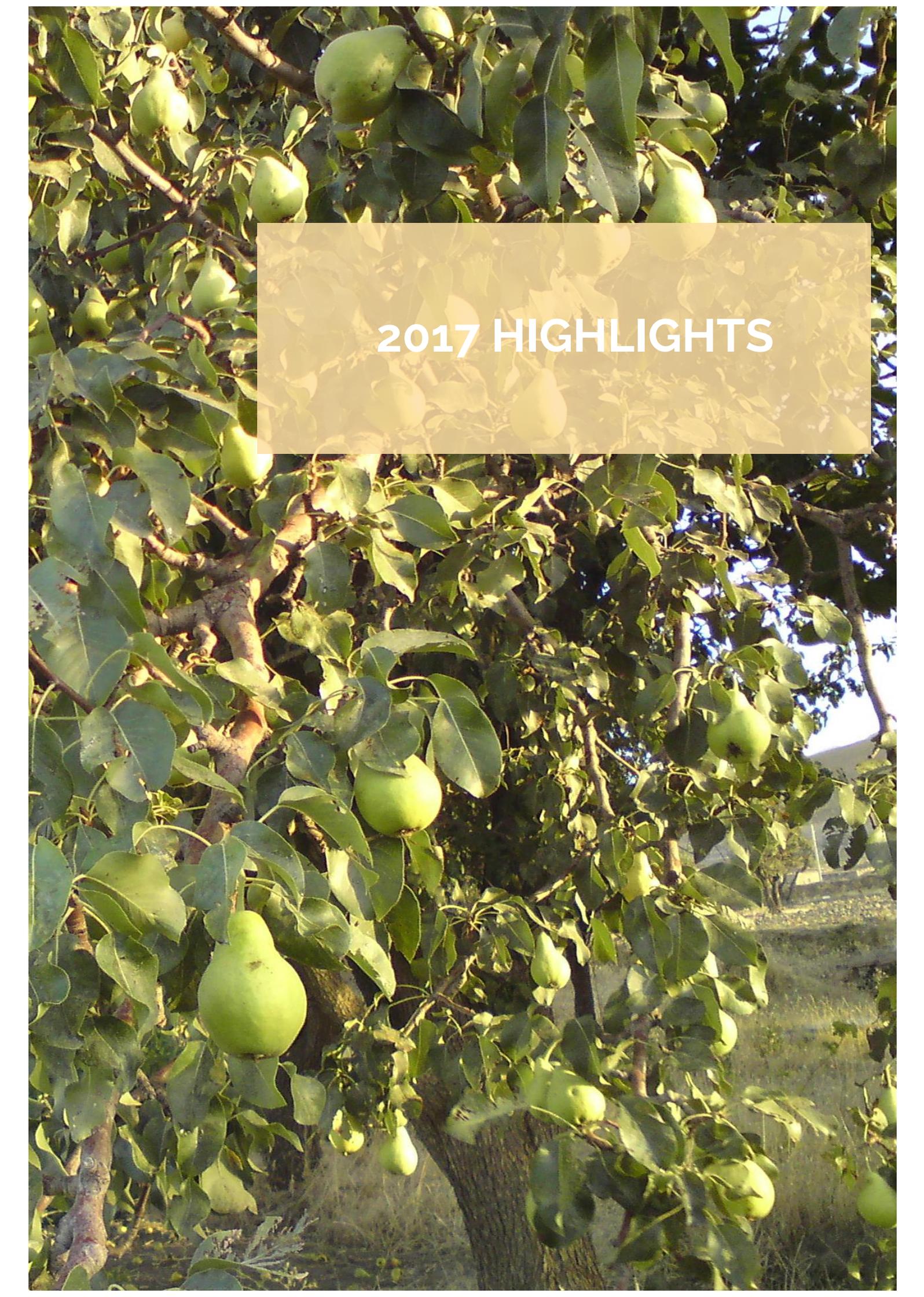
#### Greece

Asepop Velventos

#### Portugal

COTHN





# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

## 2017 Highlights

### JANUARY

#### Visit to members : Val de Loire

On 11th and 12th of January Pauline Panegos and Andrea Tivoli went to Val de Loire for working meetings with IDfel and Pom'Evasion (PO) for the preparation of the presentation event of the White Paper on the CMO.

### FEBRUARY

#### Visit to a potential member : Aragon

AREFLH met the regional agriculture Minister of Aragon and his team on February 3rd. They discussed the activities of AREFLH, and the expectations of the Aragon region for the fruit and vegetable sector.



#### SIVAL – Salon des productions végétales

AREFLH was represented by its Vice President Jean-Louis Moulon at SIVAL in Angers and met with French professionals of the sector.

#### Fruit logistica

AREFLH was present at Fruit Logistica in Berlin from 8th to 10th February. Every year, this major event allows us to meet our members. During a meeting of the Directors of APOs, in the presence of our President and Vice-President, AREFLH gave an update on the various its activities for 2017.



### MARCH

#### Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on March 1st in Brussels to prepare the General Assembly.

#### Visit to a member : PACA region

The mission was organised by André Pinatel, administrator of AREFLH. Meetings were held with the President and the Director of the Regional Chamber of Agriculture. AREFLH representatives also met Ms Bénédicte Martin, President of the PACA's Agriculture Commission, as well as two producer organisations (ALP Union and OP des Cimes).

## Presentation of EUVRIN to the GIS PIClég

Jacques Dasque and Pauline Panegos attended a meeting of the GIS PIClég (Scientific Interest Group for Integrated Vegetable Production) on March 22nd in Paris.



AREFLH's presentation focused on the European dimension of vegetable research and its development. After presenting an overview of vegetable research in Europe, AREFLH representatives introduced the activities of the EUVRIN network.

## General Assembly 2017

The 2017 General Assembly was held in Bologna on March 23rd and 24th, 2017. On March 23rd, a presentation of AREFLH was made at the Italian Agricultural Policy Commission who brings together the agriculture assessors of the regions.

In the afternoon, a conference on **"The CAP, mid-term review and post-2020 perspectives"** brought together about fifty participants. AREFLH had the honor to welcome the President of the Emilia-Romagna region, Mr Bonaccini, Mr De Castro, Vice-President of the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament, Mr Serra, of DG AGRI, Mr Di Gioia, Coordinator of the Agriculture Commission of the Italian State-Regions Conference, and Mr Assenza, representing the Italian Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies.

Later during the General Assembly, President Caselli recalled the new dynamic in which our

association has set itself, with a tighter set of priorities, reinforced lobbying thanks to our permanent representation in Brussels, and a desire to broaden our network to new regions and new APOs.

The presentations of the regions in the spotlight (**Emilia-Romagna, Basilicata and Catalonia**), emphasised the importance of research and innovation for our sector.

A final theme was then tackled, that of **"20 years of the fruit and vegetable CMO, a tool for the development of the European sector"** by Mr. Jose Garcia Alvarez Coque, Director of the Group for International Economy and Development of the University of Valencia, which has made a positive assessment of the CMO.

The General Assembly concluded with a tribute to Jacques Dasque who left his position as Secretary General to Pauline Panegos.



## APRIL

### Origo Global Forum

AREFLH was a partner of the first edition of the Origo Global Forum that took place in Parma from April 11th to 13th, 2017. The event, organised on the sidelines of the Cibus Connect trade show, was dedicated to the challenges and opportunities of **European products with geographical indications**.

Conferences, workshops and BtoB meetings enabled participants to share their experiences and raise awareness among companies, consortia and producers about the strategic value of quality products.



### MedFEL

AREFLH, represented by Jean-Louis Moulon, was present at the medFEL show from April 25th to 27th in Perpignan. The for main objective of this unmissable trade show is to associate the French professionals with their counterparts of the countries around the Mediterranean. In 2017, more than 250 exhibitors welcomed 6,500 visitors.



## MAY

### Visit to a future member: Valle d'Aosta

Jean-Louis Moulon and Pauline Panegos travelled to Valle d'Aosta to meet the regional agriculture Minister and his team. Meetings with producers and a visit to a cooperative also took place.

### Europech

The meeting Europech was held in Montpellier on May 18th. This meeting is part of the harvest forecast organised by the medFEL show (see p.28.).



### Macfrut

AREFLH participated in the Macfrut trade show from 10th to 12th May in Rimini. A meeting of Emilia-Romagna APOs was organised by the region to review the application of the fruit and vegetable CMO. Different meetings were held between AREFLH representatives and their members.



## JUNE

### **Peach - nectarine observatory**

The weekly meetings of the production and market observatory started in early June. They continued until the beginning of September.

### **Meeting of the DG SANTE platform**

On 1st June, AREFLH presented its commitments in the context of the EU platform for action on diet, physical activity and health at a plenary meeting in Brussels (see p.22).

### **Board Meeting**

The Board of Directors met on June 7th to review the requests for new memberships and to prepare for the White Paper event in Brussels. A meeting with Mr. Dantin's parliamentary assistant was held to discuss the date and schedule of the event.

### **Interpera**

More than 150 participants from 13 countries gathered in Wenatchee (Washington State, USA) for the 10th edition of Interpera on June 15th and 16th, 2017. The conference was co-organised by US Pear Bureau and AREFLH (see p.28)

### **Visit to a future member : AMC**

Jean-Louis Moulon and Andrea Tivoli went to Weiz in Austria to meet the AMC (Representative Structure for the Austrian Fruit and Vegetable Growers Organisations), a new member. AREFLH presented its activities to representatives from the Burgenland region.



## AUGUST

### **Meeting at DG AGRI**

A delegation of AREFLH members travelled to Brussels on August 8th to meet DG AGRI Unit G2 on the peach and nectarine crisis (see p.25).

### **Prognosfruit**

AREFLH participated to Prognosfruit, which was held from 9th to 11th August in Lérida, Spain. In 2017 the organizers were WAPA and Afrucat, Prognosfruit is the big annual event for apple and pear producers; it presents the first production forecast for these products.

## SEPTEMBER

### Presentation of the CMO White Paper to the European Parliament

On 5th September, for the 20th anniversary of the CMO, AREFLH presented its F&V White Paper to the European Parliament in front of more than eighty representatives of European institutions, regional governments and professional organisations (see p.29).

### European Chestnut meeting

The 8th European Chestnut meeting was held in Marradi, Tuscany on 14th and 15th September 2017. It welcomed about 100 participants (see p.29).



### Autumn taste and sun festival in Sélestat

Our Vice-President Jean-Louis Moulon travelled to Sélestat (Alsace, France) to attend the Saveurs et soleil d'automne festival, which took place from September 22nd to 24th.

Organised by the Fruit and Vegetables Interprofession of Alsace, this 8th edition took place over 3 days and allowed the public to discover the richness of the fruit and vegetable sector. Workshops, conferences, cooking demonstrations and shows were offered to visitors in order to raise their awareness of biodiversity, the development of local production and a balanced diet.

## OCTOBER

### Fruit Attraction

In October AREFLH joined the **Global Alliance "5 a day" (AIAM5)** as an associate member. AIAM5 is a non-profit international forum, bringing together national associations promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

A meeting between representatives of AREFLH, Nuria Martínez (director of the Spanish "5 al día" movement) and Fernando Gómez Molina (director of Proexport) was held during Fruit Attraction. The aim was to develop common actions.



### EUVRIN

The annual meetings of the EUVRIN network took place on 24th and 25th October at the Wavre-Sainte-Catherine (Flanders) experimental center (see p.20).

## NOVEMBER

### EUFRUIT General Assembly

On 14th November in Brussels, the partners of the EUFRUIT Thematic Network met for their General Assembly (see p.21).

### Pear observatory

Meetings of the pear production and market observatory began in mid-November.

## ICOP

Co-organised by GFA, IDfel and AREFLH, the twelfth edition of ICOP (International Conference of Producer Organisations) was held from 22nd to 24th November 2017 in Nantes.



The conference was organised around four themes:

- Market trends and innovation
- Climate change
- The 20 years of the CMO: lessons learned, successes and challenges, including the presentation of the OCM White Paper published by AREFLH
- Examples of best practices for producer organisations.







# WORK TOPICS



## Working themes

The priority working themes were defined in the "AREFLH 2025" strategic document. This project aims to meet the main challenges of the sector, identified by a working group within AREFLH and validated by the Board of Directors and the General Assembly in 2016.

### Fruit and Vegetable CMO

For many years, AREFLH has been advocating for the maintenance of this key tool of the European policy for the development of the sector.

Throughout 2017 a working group composed of representatives of AOPs and member regions, supported more broadly by the CMO expert group, met to draw up the CMO White Paper.

This document shows the predominant role of this tool for the competitiveness, development and sustainability of fruit and vegetable productions in Europe.

For 20 years, the CMO has made real progress in many areas, such as the grouping of supply, quality improvement, the environment, research and innovation.

This innovative and original tool that puts POs and APOs at the center of the system has successfully combined competitiveness and sustainability as key elements in bringing together producers and strengthening the sector.

The CMO White Paper also presents a series of proposals for future improvements to meet the challenges of globalisation, the growing demand for "green" products, the need for a better concentration of supply and its organisation to improve the efficiency of POs. It also advocates for a more effective risk management and the need to invest in innovation within the sector and faster development of environmentally-friendly productions.

## Research and Innovation

### Task Force for Research and Innovation

The Task Force for Research and Innovation (R&I) is a joint initiative of AREFLH, Freshfel, EUFRIN and EUVRIN created in 2014 at a European-wide conference in Brussels. This working group brings together professionals from the sector and representatives of European research centers specialised in fruit and vegetable.

The R&I Task Force's mission is to promote research priorities for the sector to the European institutions. They are compiled in a Strategic Agenda (SIRA) presented to the European Commission for the first time in 2015, then updated in 2016.

In 2017 the members of the R&I Task Force decided to organise a new conference in Brussels in 2018. This will aim to make an inventory of the projects financed under Horizon 2020, to make an assessment of the opportunities in this programme, but also to give the floor to the representatives of the European institutions who are preparing the next Framework Programme for Research of the European Commission (FPg).

### EUVRIN

AREFLH is involved in the activities of the European Vegetable Research Institutes Network (EUVRIN) and was at the initiative of its creation.



EUVRIN was launched in February 2016 at a kick-off meeting in Brussels. This informal network now brings together more than one hundred research and experimentation centers from 32 countries in Europe.

On 24th and 25th October 2017, the members of the network met for the annual meeting of EUVRIN at the experimental center for vegetable productions of Wavre-Sainte-Catherine (Proefstation voor de Groenteteelt) in Flanders.

The first day was devoted to the assessment of the 2017 activities of the working groups and the election of the representatives of each country on the Board. Raf De Vis (director of Proefstation voor de Groenteteelt), coordinator of the network since its creation, was congratulated and thanked for his involvement and his important commitment in the construction of EUVRIN. He will remain active in the animation of the network but is replaced by Silvana Nicola (vice President of the ISHS).

The second day of the meeting focused on the presentation of research projects carried out in different member countries of the network, the updating of the SIRA and the activities to be carried out for the next Research Framework Programme (FP9) which is under writing in the European Commission.

For more information on EUVRIN, visit the website [www.euvrin.eu](http://www.euvrin.eu)

## **EUFRUIT**

The European thematic network on fruits was launched in 2016 for a period of 3 years. It aims to gather and analyse research results and best practices in four areas: the development of new varieties and their evaluation, the minimisation of residues on fruit and the environment, the optimisation of storage and processing, fruit quality, and the improvement of sustainable production systems.

The consortium brings together 21 partners from 12 countries and is coordinated by Michelle Williams, Head of the Department of Food Science at Aarhus University (Denmark).

EUFRUIT is characterised by a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together research centers as well as organisations representing the sector's professionals, such as AREFLH and Freshfel. These two organisations are in particular responsible for disseminating the results of the project and communicating to the European institutions about the activities of this thematic network.

On 14th November 2017 the consortium partners met in Brussels for the Annual General Assembly. The leaders of the various working groups presented the activities carried out on the four themes of the project.

The General Assembly also set targets for the second half of the project, with a focus on increasing the visibility of the Knowledge Platform, which now houses more than 200 articles and knowledge materials.

For more information :

[www.eufrin.org](http://www.eufrin.org)

<http://kp.eufrin.org/>

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## Promotion

Beyond the work of its Promotion & Markets Committee and position papers, AREFLH's action on promotion is reflected in the commitments made in the framework of the EU platform for action on diet, physical activity and health in which the association has been active for many years.

Composed of about 30 members and supported by the European Commission's DG Sante, this platform aims to exchange good practices and actions put in place to fight against obesity and promote healthy lifestyles in Europe.

AREFLH's commitment to this platform aims to increase the visibility of fruit and vegetables to European institutions and consumers.

Our actions are as follows:

- Sharing experiences and disseminating information to our members on European promotion programmes and consumption data, through regular meetings of the Promotion Commission, newsletters and communication on social networks.
- Improving consumer confidence in healthy, quality fruit and vegetables by contributing to a good image of the sector, promoting research and innovation and integrated production.
- Regular meetings with the European institutions to advocate for the continuation of the Fruit and Vegetables programme in schools.

The year 2017 was marked by update of the Regio'Com guide. This document, published for the first time in 2007, lists good practices and F&V promotional activities in AREFLH's member regions. The official presentation of the document will be the subject of a conference in 2018.





OUR ACTIONS IN  
BRUSSELS  
POSITION STATEMENTS

### **Position Paper on the European Commission's Public Consultation on Modernising and Simplifying the CAP**

In April 2017, a position paper has been developed to put forward AREFLH's recommendations in regards to the drafting of the future 2018 Communication on Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy by the European Commission. Drafted with the help of its newly created CAP Commission, the aim of this initiative was to contribute to the Commission's public consultation on the future of the CAP.

AREFLH's position paper focuses mainly on identifying the CAP's main challenges and obstacles and provides a set of recommendations and innovative proposals in order to achieve the following objectives:

- Upholding the fruit and vegetables common market organisation structure.
- Developing effective crisis prevention and risk management tools to protect farmers from market disturbances, climatic events or phytosanitary issues.
- Contributing to income and job creation in the agricultural sector, in particular for young farmers.
- Ensuring adequate production of healthy and quality food for European citizens.
- Reinforcing actions aiming to improve agriculture's environmental sustainability.
- Foster the socio-economic development of rural areas.

AREFLH's position paper is available on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).

### **AREFLH Position Paper on the Annual Work Programme 2018 on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries**

This paper has been developed in April 2017 to put forward AREFLH's recommendations in regards to the drafting of the future 2018 Annual Work Programme on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries.

Drafted with the help of its Promotion Commission, the position paper calls for:

- Striking the right balance in budget lines between the internal market and third countries as well as amongst simple and multi programmes.
- Simplifying the Annual Work Programme's priorities.
- Strengthening the budget dedicated to EU Quality Schemes, in particular for fruit and vegetables.
- Integrating SPS barriers in the European Commission's macroeconomic analysis for third countries.
- Provisions for serious market disturbance, loss of consumer confidence or other specific problems.
- Prioritising the sectors severely affected by the consequences of the Russian embargo.

AREFLH's position paper is available on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).

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## **AREFLH feedback on the Draft Annual Work Programme 2018 on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries**

This paper has been developed in July 2017 after the European Commission unveiled a draft version of its future 2018 Annual Work Programme on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries. AREFLH expressed its main recommendations through this document and called for:

- Differentiating fresh and processed (incl. preparations) fruit and vegetables budget allocation and data analysis.
- Further increasing the budget for the promotion of the consumption of fruits and vegetables in the internal market.
- Better recognition of the added value brought by transnational consortiums in multi-programmes.
- More transparency on the 'Commission's own initiatives' budget allocation and use.

AREFLH's position paper is available on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).

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## **The increase in peach and nectarine withdrawal volumes in the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1533**

On 8 August 2017, a delegation of representatives from AOP and AREFLH member regions met in Brussels for a meeting with the services of DG Agri. It was a question of finding quick solutions to support producers in the face of the market crisis of peaches and nectarines caused by a combination of climatic, economic and political factors.

After presenting the current situation in the main European producing countries (France, Spain, Greece, Italy), AREFLH pleaded for an increase in the withdrawal volumes provided for in Regulation 2017/1165 setting out the exceptional measures following the Russian embargo.

The response of the European Commission has been favorable; after a technical meeting between the Member States held on 24 August in Brussels, the adoption of a new delegated regulation was decided.

The Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1533 published on September 8, 2017 (with retroactive effect from August 3, 2017) provides for the withdrawal quantities in Regulation (EU) 2017/1165 for peaches and nectarines to be tripled for producers in Spain in Greece and Italy, ie 19 550, 10 710 and 4 760 tonnes respectively.

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## **AREFLH Position Paper on the European Commission's Public Consultation on the initiative to improve the food supply chain**

This paper has been developed in November 2017 to put forward AREFLH's recommendations in regards to a potential proposal of an EU legislative framework or other non-legislative measures in the area of unfair trading practices (UTPs) by the European Commission.

In order to address the several challenges and obstacles that the F&V sector faces, AREFLH has shared some recommendations, concrete proposals and innovative ideas to successfully tackle UTPs across Europe:

- Establishing a framework legislation at EU level to tackle UTPs.

- Creating an open list of UTPs to be prohibited at EU level.
- Designing competent authorities and enforcement bodies to deal with UTPs at national/regional level.
- Facilitate the adoption of compulsory contracts and value-sharing clauses.
- Strengthening the role of Producer Organisations (POs) and Interbranch Organisations (IBOs).
- Clarify competition rules for POs and IBOs.
- Increasing market transparency and provision of information within the agri-food supply chain.

AREFLH's position paper is available on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).

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## **AREFLH Proposals for the European Parliament's own-initiative report on the Implementation of CAP instruments for Young Farmers since the 2013 Reform**

In December 2017, AREFLH was asked by Members of the European Parliament to formulate proposals aiming to boost the attractiveness of producer organisations for young farmers and reinforce the range of services they provide, AREFLH took the opportunity to share the following proposals and recommendations:

- Facilitate the creation and consolidation of guarantee funds by POs for the first instalment of young farmers.
- Apply an additional percentage increase of EU aid in operational programmes that implement specific actions targeting young farmers.

AREFLH's position paper is available on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).



# EVENTS

### Europech

Europech is the annual meeting for peach and nectarine producers from the main European producing countries. This meeting is part of the harvest forecast organised by medFEL, in partnership in 2017 with INRA SupAgro Montpellier.

Given the importance for producers to have reliable harvest forecasts, AREFLH has been associated with Europech for about ten years.

In 2017 the meeting was held on May 18th in Montpellier and was organised in four stages:

- Peach and nectarine harvest forecasts in Spain, France, Greece and Italy.
- The interventions of the contact group of agricultural administrations of Italy, Spain and France on the subject of fisheries-nectarine exchanges.
- A return on the 2016 campaign.
- Presentation of varietal innovation programs in Spain, Italy and France.

In addition, participants were invited to visit a genetic laboratory and a molecular biology platform of INRA.



### Interpera

The US Pear Bureau Northwest, in collaboration with AREFLH, hosted the 10th Interpera Conference in Wenatchee, Washington, United States. It enabled producers, researchers and marketers from the world's producing countries to meet and discuss the particular issues related to this fruit.

These two days brought together more than 150 participants from 13 countries.

The first day in the room allowed participants to attend presentations by international experts on the following topics:

- New varieties and plant material,
- High density planting,
- Mechanisation of harvesting and packaging
- The successes of integrated pest management.
- Successful business practices and the situation of international markets.

On the second day, visits to orchards and fruit stations were organized in a must-see pear production region of North America.



Useful links : [www.usapears.org](http://www.usapears.org) / [www.interpera.weebly.com](http://www.interpera.weebly.com)

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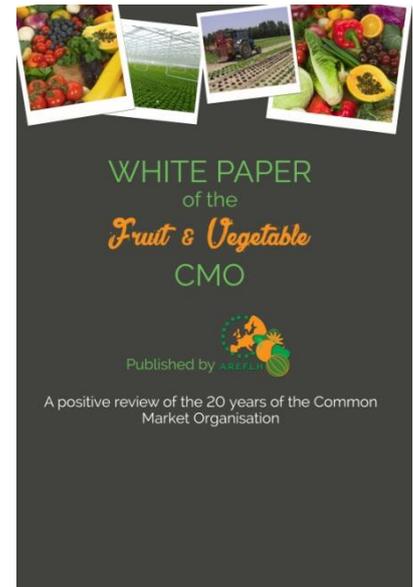
## White Paper of the Fruit and Vegetable CMO

The CMO White Paper was presented for the first time on 5 September 2017 to the European Parliament in front of more than eighty representatives from European institutions, regional governments and professional organizations.

Simona Caselli, President of AREFLH, reminded the participants that the fruit and vegetable CMO represents, for the present and for the future, an indispensable instrument not only for its positive impact on the sector, but also for the specificity administrative and financial arrangements.

Jean-Louis Moulon, Vice-President and President of the AREFLH's College of Producers, emphasized the role of the CMO as a vehicle for bundling supply with a highly concentrated distribution and its ability to ensure an important social and territorial anchoring through the employment of a large and increasingly qualified workforce.

This event also enabled industry stakeholders to share their experiences and to show how the CMO has been a vector of progress for producers and their organisations.



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## European Chestnut meeting

More than a hundred professionals from the sector gathered in Marradi (Tuscany) for the VIIIth edition of the European Meeting of the Chestnut.

The French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chilean participants had the opportunity to discover this production area and to attend presentations on various topics: phytosanitary, economic, commercial and legislative issues, as well as industrial transformation.

The event was co-organised by the Center for Studies and Documentation of Marradi, its local partners, and AREFLH.

A white chestnut book was presented by AREFLH. After a detailed description of European and global production of chestnut and its evolution, as well as economic elements, the White Paper of the chestnut proposes a series of actions to be taken to stop the fall of the European production. Indeed, it is experiencing a significant slowdown; it has almost halved in fifty years.



The White Paper proposals focus on the following points:

- Actions to be taken to deal with the chestnut galls.
- Farm and industrial processing.
- Identification procedures for productions from European regions.
- Organisational steps in the sector.
- Communication.
- The valuation of chestnut wood.
- The recognition of chestnut orchards in European policies.

Read the full document on [www.chestnut-meetings.org](http://www.chestnut-meetings.org)

Other useful link : [www.centrostudicastagno.it](http://www.centrostudicastagno.it)



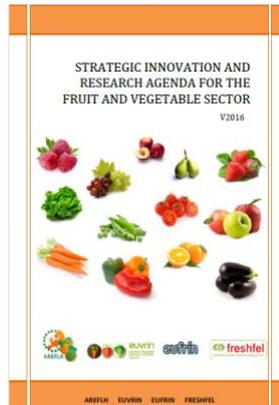


**PUBLICATIONS  
COMMUNICATION**

## Publications / Communications

- White paper of the Fruit and Vegetable CMO, a positive review of the 20 years of the Common Market Organisation,
- The White Paper of the European Chestnut
- Strategic innovation and research agenda for the Fruit and Vegetable sector
- Tasty recipes based on fruits and vegetables from AREFLH regions

All the documents can be found on [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org) / [media](#) / [our publications](#)



## Our communication tools

- Our brand new website [www.areflh.org](http://www.areflh.org).
- Our weekly emails (AREFLH info) to members only, with news on the sector and on european policies (CAP, CMO, Promotion, Official Journal articles, etc.).
- Our monthly newsletter (you can subscribe from our website), with information on the activities of AREFLH and the sector.
- Our Twitter account (@areflh).
- Physical and phone meetings







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