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| |  | | --- | |  | | **FRUCOM NEWSLETTER 28/04/2025**   * ALL PRODUCTS   + [Notice to economic operators – New round of requests for the suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products](javascript:void(0);)   + [Entry into force of Omnibus reform proposal to delay sustainability due diligence and reporting for businesses](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: extension of approval for multiple substances](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: Minutes and presentation of AgriFood Chain round table (AFCRT) meeting - 13 March](javascript:void(0);)   + [Official controls: Member States to discuss the minimum requirements for border control posts](javascript:void(0);)   + [Contaminants: 3-MCPD consultation, feedback needed](javascript:void(0);)   + [RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/17 (21/04/2025 - 27/04/2025)](javascript:void(0);)   + [RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/16 (14/04/2025 - 20/04/2025)](javascript:void(0);) * DRIED FRUIT & NUTS   + [Additives: Letter from the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Sulphur Dioxide to the European Commission](javascript:void(0);)   + [Call DG SANTE – update on contaminants (Alternaria, mulberries OTA /dried apricots OTA, hydrocyanic acid); official control regulation revision](javascript:void(0);)   + [EU-US Tariffs: Stakeholder Meeting with EU Commission Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand - concerns almonds and cranberries](javascript:void(0);)   + [EU- US Tariffs: EU Commission reply to almond letter, and publishes Report on the public consultation on the tariffs list](javascript:void(0);) | |  | |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **ALL PRODUCTS**  [**Notice to economic operators – New round of requests for the suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products**](javascript:void(0);)  On 28 April the European Commission published a Notice to economic operators – New round of requests for the suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products.  Economic operators are informed that the Commission has received requests in accordance with the administrative arrangements foreseen in the Commission Communication concerning autonomous tariff suspensions and quotas (2011/C 363/02) for the January round of 2026.  The list of the products for which a duty suspension is requested is now available on the Commission's thematic (Europa) website on the customs union: <https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds2/susp/susp_home.jsp?Lang=en>  Economic operators are also informed that the deadline for objections against new requests to reach the Commission, via the national administrations, is 17 June 2025 which is the date of the second scheduled meeting of the Economic Tariff Questions Group.  Interested operators are advised to consult the list regularly in order to be informed on the status as the requests.  More information on the autonomous tariff suspension procedure can be found on the Europa website:  [Suspensions (Autonomous Tariff Suspensions) (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/customs-tariff/suspensions-autonomous-tariff-suspensions_en)  More information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/2486/oj>  [**Entry into force of Omnibus reform proposal to delay sustainability due diligence and reporting for businesses**](javascript:void(0);)  On 16 April, Directive (EU) 2025/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 April 2025 amending Directives (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards the dates from which Member States are to apply certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Text with EEA relevance) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union.  The directive postpones the dates of application of certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements, as well as the transposition deadline of the due diligence provisions, in line with the proposal of the European Commission under the Omnibus I package.  The directive entered into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.  More information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/794/oj>  [**Pesticides: extension of approval for multiple substances**](javascript:void(0);)  The Commission has published Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/787, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, amidosulfuron, bentazone, bixafen, clomazone, fenoxaprop-P, fludioxonil, fluoxastrobin, flutolanil, fluxapyroxad, gibberellic acid, gibberellins, halauxifen-methyl, mecoprop-P, paraffin oil, penthiopyrad, pirimiphos-methyl, propamocarb, propyzamide, prothioconazole, rimsulfuron, sedaxane and sulfoxaflor.  The majority of these substances are present in the FRUCOM database. Fludioxonil, gibberellic acid, pirimiphos-methyl and sulfoxaflor have a small number of exceedances.  This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.  The document is available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500787>  [**Pesticides: Minutes and presentation of AgriFood Chain round table (AFCRT) meeting - 13 March**](javascript:void(0);)  As addressed in a [previous circular](https://frucom.eu/circulars/5259:pesticides-round-table-discussion-on-commission-s-work-program.html), FRUCOM attended the most recent meeting of the AgriFood Chain Round Table (AFCRT) on 13 March.  The meeting minutes and presentation are available below:  [AFCRT Meeting 13 03 2025 slideshow](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2701)  [AFCRT minutes - 1st meeting 2025 - 13 March 2025\_short version](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2703).    [**Official controls: Member States to discuss the minimum requirements for border control posts**](javascript:void(0);)  The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Controls and Import Conditions will have a meeting on 28-29 April 2025. The agenda is available here: <https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2c2486ec-20bf-4157-a5d9-69143a58870d_en?filename=reg-com_cic_20250428_agenda.pdf>  Topics to be discussed:  B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1014 to lay down detailed rules on minimum requirements for border control posts, including inspection centres, and for the format, categories and abbreviations to use for listing border control posts and control points.  <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/comitology-register/screen/documents/106815/1/consult?lang=en>  [**Contaminants: 3-MCPD consultation, feedback needed**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM received a stakeholder consultation regarding 3-MCDP.  Maximum levels for the sum of 3-monochoropropanediol (3-MCPD) and 3-MCPD esters, expressed 3-MCPD and glycidyl esters have been established by [Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/915/2025-01-01" \o "http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/915/2025-01-01) for vegetable oils, fish oils and oils from other marine organisms and for infant formulae, follow-on formulae and food for special medical purposes intended for infants and young children and young child formulae are established.  The establishment of maximum levels for processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children and baby food on which you were already previously consulted are under finalisation  **This targeted consultation relates to the other compound food containing more than 5 % fat and containing vegetable oils and fats and/or fish oils and/or oils from other marine organisms**  Please find enclosed the proposed provisions (in red) for information, consultation and possible comments.  Consultation:[MCPD-glycidyl-esters-for-targeted-stakeholder-consultation](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2698)  **In case of comments, please submit those by next Wednesday** **(29.04) to**[**ksaari@frucom.eu**](mailto:ksaari@frucom.eu)**and jpereira@frucom.eu**    [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/17 (21/04/2025 - 27/04/2025)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2025/17 (21/04/2025 - 27/04/2025).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database  [FRUCOMRASFF2025\_Week17](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2700)  [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/16 (14/04/2025 - 20/04/2025)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2025/16 (14/04/2025 - 20/04/2025).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database  [FRUCOMRASFF2025\_Week16](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2699)  **DRIED FRUIT & NUTS**  [**Additives: Letter from the TurkIsh Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Sulphur Dioxide to the European Commission**](javascript:void(0);)  The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has sent a letter to the Commission regarding Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) in dried apricots. The letter is available at:  [Dried Apricot Letter](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2706)  FRUCOM's [latest circular](https://frucom.eu/circulars/5235:additives-sulfur-dioxide-so2-maximum-levels-to-be-analysed-by-efsa.html) on the subject provides an overview of the proposed maximum levels currently being analysed by EFSA. FRUCOM has been engaging with EU officials, closely monitoring the situation and publishing information.  [**Call DG SANTE – update on contaminants (Alternaria, mulberries OTA /dried apricots OTA, hydrocyanic acid); official control regulation revision**](javascript:void(0);)  **Alternaria**  The Commission encourages FRUCOM to submit data to DG SANTE in the coming weeks for them to be integrated into the EFSA re-assessment. The deadline for EFSA re-assessment of toxicology and of data is mid-2026.  Controls on Alternaria by the Member States: according to the oral answer by the Commission, the Member States have the competence for official controls. Even if the levels are not set for Alternaria in the legislation, the Member States can invoke Art 14 of General Food Law to state the food in unsafe in case of exceedance. It is then for the food operator to demonstrate this is not the case. It is possible that the Member States have a different approach for the same level.  **Upcoming revision of official control regulation 1793/2019:** interservice consultation among the departments of the Commission is ongoing. The vote at the Standing committee is expected end April, and the formal adoption by the Commission mid-May. Application: 1 July. Increase of level of checks for figs from Turkey for OTA/afla to 30% is expected.  Revision of the levels for mulberries for OTA: the Commission has asked EFSA since the request for a higher level must be confirmed by the EFSA data. This discussion is expected with the Member States at the meeting of 6-7 May.  Revision of the levels for dried apricots for OTA: this may be justified for brown apricots only. Same timeline for discussion.  Dried apricots/increase of level for hydrocyanic acid: the Commission is in favour, but it will depend on the Member States. This could be done in alignment with the level in almonds (35). Discussion is expected at the same meeting 6-7 May.  [**EU-US Tariffs: Stakeholder Meeting with EU Commission Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand - concerns almonds and cranberries**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM participated on 15 April in the Civil Society Dialogue meeting on EU trade policy and economic security with Sabine Weyand, the European Commission's Director-General for Trade and Economic Security.  With respect to FRUCOM priorities, Dr Weyand responded to FRUCOM’s question about almonds,  goods in transit and the application of the ad valorem duty in the EU countermeasures to products with an autonomous tariff suspension.  > For goods where there is a dependency, such as almonds, the EU has given then grace period of up to 1 December at the end of the harvest season but Commission expects everyone to adapt and diversify. With almonds, that means **diversification to other non-European Mediterranean countries who are not WTO members, who have the capacity to produce more.**    >**There will be no provision for goods in transit**, there will be no shipping clause, as operators have had plenty of time to prepare for the application of tariffs and there is also an additional 90 day pause.  > Where US goods under the EU countermeasures are subject to an autonomous tariff suspension or other provision affecting the MFN rate, then this autonomous tariff suspension will not affect the application of the EU countermeasures, but whenever it is that the EU countermeasures kick in, the MFN duties will not come back on top of that.  FRUCOM understands this to mean that the EU *ad valorem* duty from the countermeasure will be calculated on top of the autonomous tariff suspension duty, e.g. Sweetened Dried cranberries (CN code 2008 93 91) have a 0% end use autonomous tariff suspension, so the 25% *ad valorem* duty applies on top of the 0% end use autonomous tariff suspension.  > For the benefit of SMEs in particular, DG TRADE hopes that a need for a page with Frequently Asked Questions on the EU-US tariffs could be established in collaboration with DG TAXUD.    Other highlights from the meeting are the following:  · The EU is dealing with challenges posed by US tariffs and trade measures.  · Presently, 70% of EU exports under additional illegal tariffs by the US.  · Engagement and dialogue remain a priority for the EU, and the Commissioner for trade, Maroš Šefčovič returned from US seeking to make progress on this part.  · The US has provided three justifications of the tariffs: **Reshoring** key industries to the US (specifically industries subject to special tariff regime – e.g. production of semiconductor and pharmaceuticals, steel, aluminium and automotives); **Revenue for Tax** generation to enable tax reduction for companies; **Leverage for negotiations** for concessions.  · It’s becoming clearer that the sole decision maker, the US President, is most concerned by Reshoring and Revenue as the priorities.  · There is no reason, at present, for optimism, so the EU is preparing further countermeasures.  · Another EU priority will be the diversification of its the trade agenda, the Commission has received lots of requests from third countries for talks and or trade agreements, together with messages and political determination for acceleration existing FTA negotiations.  · A stepwise approach to trade agreements could become more prevalent, with different phases, rather than waiting for everything to be agreed as in past FTAs. These stepwise FTAs will be less steep and less comprehensive.  · Additionally, the EU will be focusing on elimination of barriers within the EU single market. Some studies indicate increasing integration in the single market by 2% could offset losses due to the US tariffs.  · Protection of the EU market from dumping and trade diversion is also a critical concern, and the Commission will set up a task force on this.  · The big message of the EU is that it will stick to stability, predictability and win-win approach on trade.  · Finally, the EU will also see better use of the existing FTAs, of which it has agreements with 76 counties.  · On the Generalise Scheme of Preference (GSP) file, this is very important tool for sustainable development, both co-legislators pushing hard but discussions remain blocked on automatic safeguard for rice, and the link of GSP to migration.  · The Commission will also need to do the business outreach at the granular level in relation to economic security analysis and to address areas of high dependencies.  · Most importantly, industry should know that they will not be able to continue with business as usual.  More information: <https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-meetings-civil-society/civil-society-dialogue-meeting-eu-trade-policy-and-economic-security-dg-sabine-weyand-2025-04-15_en>  [**EU- US Tariffs: EU Commission reply to almond letter, and publishes Report on the public consultation on the tariffs list**](javascript:void(0);)  On 16 April, FRUCOM received the reply to the join letter by the European Snacks Association (ESA), the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe (CAOBISCO), the European Federation of the trade in dried fruit, edible nuts, processed fruit & vegetables and processed fishery products (FRUCOM) and the Association of the German Confectionery Industry (BDSI) which was sent to the European Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, highlighting the need to remove almonds from the proposed EU countermeasures to the US additional Steel and Aluminium tariffs.  [Ares 4802230 reply almonds\_rev](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2697)  The Commission has also published the report on the information-gathering exercise under Regulation (EU) No 6542014 on the new US tariffs on steel and aluminium products, and possible EU rebalancing measures in response. In this report, the Commission asserts:  In the case of almonds and soya beans, the application of the rebalancing measures is delayed to 1 December 2025, in order to ensure availability of sources of supply given the seasonality of the products.  More information:  <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/e9d50ad8-e41f-4379-839a-fdfe08f0aa96/library/465a77c6-939c-4ff6-94c0-72b9a365d5bd/details> | |