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| |  | | --- | | **FRUCOM NEWSLETTER 31/03/2025**   * FRUCOM ACTIVITIES   + [Agenda and Meeting Link: Sustainability working group meeting 2 April, 4:30 PM – 6 PM (Brussels) time](javascript:void(0);)   + [FRUCOM actions on EU-US trade](javascript:void(0);)   + [EU – US Tariffs: FRUCOM – DG TRADE call on EU tariffs on US almonds, processed cranberries, peanut butter](javascript:void(0);) * ALL PRODUCTS   + [EU-US Tariffs Official Journal: EU delays until 14 April 2025 return of 2018 Countermeasure on US peanut butter and processed cranberry products](javascript:void(0);)   + [Invitation: EU Civil Dialogue Group Meeting on International Aspects of Agriculture, 8 April 2025 from 09:30 to 18:00](javascript:void(0);)   + [DG TRADE Civil Society Dialogue meeting on Southeast Asia](javascript:void(0);)   + [Alternaria discussion - Data analysis meeting overview/New data call until May 9th](javascript:void(0);)   + [EU Council agrees to delay some sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Omnibus proposal)](javascript:void(0);)   + [EU Launches a Sanctions Helpdesk to help SMEs comply with EU sanctions regime](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: new MRLs for Cycloxydim, Flupyradifurone and Phosphonic acid](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: voting results of the February 2025 standing committee](javascript:void(0);)   + [Notes – Meeting of the Agri-Food Chain Sustainability Roundtable 24th March](javascript:void(0);)   + [Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation: Draft industry letter on Annex V Point 4 prohibiting single use plastic portion packaging in HORECA](javascript:void(0);)   + [FRUCOM Submission Consultation on EU-US Steel Aluminium - almonds, cranberries, and other products](javascript:void(0);)   + [Pesticides: EFSA conclusion on MRL for deltamethrin in cherries](javascript:void(0);)   + [UK launches Government Action Plan on Pesticides](javascript:void(0);)   + [RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/13 (24/03/2025 - 30/03/2025)](javascript:void(0);) * DRIED FRUIT & NUTS   + [Almendrave importers trip, April 29th-30th](javascript:void(0);) | |  | |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **FRUCOM ACTIVITIES**  [**Agenda and Meeting Link: Sustainability working group meeting 2 April, 4:30 PM – 6 PM (Brussels) time**](javascript:void(0);)  The online meeting will take place on **2nd April, 4:30PM – 6PM (Brussels) time.**  It will be looking at the impact of sustainability standards and certification for trade in dried and processed fruit, nuts and seafood products.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting?omkt=en-US)  [**Join the meeting now**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTE5MDlmNTctMDVmMy00NDhkLWE4MDctMDhmMzllNmNlODY2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227d26e499-bb2b-4136-8597-207c7d5d9e8e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2299f3daa8-9e98-4f3f-84db-1c65dfbed96e%22%7d)  Meeting ID: 397 546 874 710  Passcode: kF2qy7g7  The agenda cand be found here [Agenda WG sustainability 02.04.2025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2675)  [**FRUCOM actions on EU-US trade**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below FYI a recap of FRUCOM team activities on this issue.  **Please kindly share the feedback if any, from your contacts to the EU governments/your MEPs.**  **The FRUCOM position**   * + - Processing of members input and preparing FRUCOM position     - Bilateral contacts with member associations and companies replying to questions on e.g. goods in transit, force majeure, duty on cranberries for industrial processing, further potential retaliation lists     - Reply to official EU consultation   **The Commission**   * + - Preparatory call and meeting DG TRADE 26 March     - Setting up meeting with DG AGRI (on 2nd April)     - Calling the cabinets and sending positions to Commissioners for Trade and for Agriculture, offices of DG Trade and Agri     - Contacts with DG Taxud on treatment of goods for industrial processing   **The Parliament**   * + - Preparation of key contacts in the INTA committee     - Contacts with MEP offices from Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain     - Co-ordination of members’ actions on outreach to the Parliament     - Bilateral meeting with member of the Parliament office MEP Zoido in charge of trade of the Spanish conservative party; preparation of summary of the Spanish market situation based on members’ input   **The Member States**   * + - Preparing and sharing contacts in the relevant permanent representations     - Information on the upcoming Council of Ministers   Co-ordinating with like-minded **sector associations** (Caobisco, ESA snacks, BDSI confectionary) in view of a joint position.  **Follow up** of official announcements, parliamentary discussions, official statements etc.  [**EU – US Tariffs: FRUCOM – DG TRADE call on EU tariffs on US almonds, processed cranberries, peanut butter**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM and members from Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands participated in an exchange with DG TRADE’s policy coordinator for EU-US trade relations and desk officer for agriculture.  The notes from this meeting can be found here:  [Notes DG TRADE FRUCOM EU-US tariffs call 25.03.2025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2674)  FRUCOM’s next meeting with the European Commission on EU-US tariffs will take place on Wednesday 2 April, with DG AGRI.  Member States ministers of foreign affairs will meet at the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) on 7 April 2025. The agenda highlights of this meeting include the trade relations with the US. At this meeting, Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the current trade relation with US and will give orientation for future work.  **ALL PRODUCTS**  [**EU-US Tariffs Official Journal: EU delays until 14 April 2025 return of 2018 Countermeasure on US peanut butter and processed cranberry products**](javascript:void(0);)  The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/664 of 31 March 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882 suspending commercial policy measures concerning certain products originating in the United States of America imposed by Implementing Regulations (EU) 2018/886 and (EU) 2020/502 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 31 March 2025.  The Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/664 amends the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2882 as follows:  (1)in Article 1, ‘31 March 2025’ is replaced by ‘14 April 2025’;  (2)in Article 2, ‘31 March 2025’ is replaced by ‘14 April 2025’.  This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.  This would concern the 25% *ad valorem*duty on Kidney beans (0713 33 90), Peanut butter (2008 11 10), Concentrate cranberry (in codes 2009 81 11; 2009 81 19; 2009 81 31; 2009 81 59), and Dried cranberries (20089391).  More information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/664/oj>  [**Invitation: EU Civil Dialogue Group Meeting on International Aspects of Agriculture, 8 April 2025 from 09:30 to 18:00**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM members are invited to participate in the meeting of the European Commission's Civil Dialogue Group on International Aspects of Agriculture will take place on 8 April 2025 from 9:30 to 18:00 CET hybrid and online, via Interactio.  The agenda can be downloaded here [2025-04-08 CDG IAA Agenda](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2673)  Several places for physical and remote participation are available, and will be provided on a first come, first served basis.  Please provide confirmation no later than **1/04/2025** if you wish to participate, and **select one or more of the options below – any limited options will be provided on a first come, first served basis.**  (a) In-person attendance: there is 1 in-person seat for physical participation in Brussels available, which is reimbursable (travel costs, an accommodation allowance, and a daily allowance)  (b) Active online Participation: there are 6 places for active online participation (e.g. to be able to ask questions or take the floor).  ·**Additional observers (participating online in listening mode only)**  After the registration deadline, the AGM correspondents will receive an **observer link to allow additional participation in listening mode only.**  [**DG TRADE Civil Society Dialogue meeting on Southeast Asia**](javascript:void(0);)  The meeting of the Civil Society Dialogue on Southeast Asia took place on 20 March 2025  Christophe Kiener, Head of Unit for South and Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission presented updates on the ongoing and completed trade agreements with Southeast Asian countries. He was joined by the Deputy Head of Unit and the Team leader for Southeast Asia.  **Indonesia**: trying to bridge very different approaches to trade policy. So far 19 rounds of negotiations have taken place, the last one being in summer 2024, several exchanges of offers have already been made.  **Thailand** has strong determination to advance swiftly, 4 negotiations have taken place, still relatively early, no discussion yet on market access liberalisation, 5th round of negotiations taking place 31 March to 4 April, in a couple of months expecting to kick-start market access. A Sustainability Impact Assessment is expected in the summer of 2025. Thailand is very positive on the sustainability inclusion in their FTA, sees this as an opportunity.  **Philippines** negotiations resumed in 2024, only two rounds so far, constructive and converging views between the two parties.  **Malaysia** in January 2025 a decision was made to resume negotiations, internal discussions on the beginning of the first round, end of April first meeting of chief negotiators to see how things will be organised, first round ideally taking place in Brussels, hoping for this will take place before summer.  **Vietnam**: Commissioner for Trade will travel to Vietnam in April as part of the 35th anniversary of EU-Vietnam diplomatic relations and five years after signing a free trade agreement with Vietnam.  [**Alternaria discussion - Data analysis meeting overview/New data call until May 9th**](javascript:void(0);)  As addressed in a [previous circular](https://frucom.eu/circulars/5254:contaminants-frucom-alternaria-results-meeting-scheduled.html), FRUCOM held a a meeting presenting Alternaria data received by members, on 25th March.  As agreed during the meeting, **we are opening a second data call for Alternaria, deadline May 9, end of day (Brussels time)**.  Please submit your data using the FRUCOM template, to [ksaari@frucom.eu](mailto:ksaari@frucom.eu) and [jpereira@frucom.eu](mailto:jpereira@frucom.eu).  Both the meeting presentation and the FRUCOM template are available as attachments.  **Main discussion points:**   * + - Hazelnuts, Sesame seeds and Figs as the products with the most exceedances.     - Importance of data collection and sharing with the Commission.     - Importance of industry input to understand the current state of play and communicate effectively with EU authorities.     - Divergence in practical approach by EU Member States to the indicative levels: Netherlands as an example/RASFF notifications.     - Tomato products – only one value in indicative levels creates issues in implementation, due to products with different percentage of dried mass.     - Other EU sectorial organisations as potential sources of information on Alternaria.   **Next steps:**   * + - Share existing data with the Commission.     - Open a second data call for Alternaria.     - Prepare position paper to the Commission.   Presentation: [Alternaria March 2025 PPP](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2670)  FRUCOM data collection template: [Contaminant template](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2671)  [**EU Council agrees to delay some sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Omnibus proposal)**](javascript:void(0);)  On 26 March, Member states’ representatives (Coreper) approved today the Council’s position (‘negotiating mandate’) on one of the Commission’s proposals to simplify EU rules as part of the Omnibus reform proposal to simplify sustainability due diligence and reporting for businesses.  This proposal (the so-called ‘Stop-the-clock’ 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.  Following the approval of the Council’s negotiating mandate for the ‘Stop-the-clock’ directive by Coreper on 26 March, the presidency is enabled to enter interinstitutional negotiations with a view to reaching a provisional agreement with the European Parliament on this proposal. For its part, the European Parliament has scheduled on 1 April a vote on request for urgent procedure on this proposal.  **European Parliament response**  The President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, had announced during the European Council of 20 March 2025 that the European Parliament adopt an urgency procedure to adopt the ‘Stop-the-clock’ directive in two weeks. On the amendments to CSRD and CSDDD, rapporteurs are being appointed, and work will start in April.  As part of the Parliament Plenary taking place 31 March to 3 April, Members of Parlaiment will vote on a request for urgent procedure (Rule 170) concerning 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.  More information: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/26/simplification-council-agrees-position-on-the-stop-the-clock-mechanism-to-enhance-eu-competitiveness/>  [**EU Launches a Sanctions Helpdesk to help SMEs comply with EU sanctions regime**](javascript:void(0);)  On 25 March, the European Commission launched the EU Sanctions Helpdesk to support European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with sanctions compliance. The Helpdesk will a range of services designed to help SMEs comply with EU sanctions worldwide.  The Helpdesk will manage a [dedicated website](https://eu-sanctions-compliance-helpdesk.europa.eu/index_en) featuring sanctions-related information, country-specific guidance, events, tips, lessons learned, and more.  The EU now has over 40 sanctions regimes globally containing a wide range of restrictive measures, from targeted individual measures (e.g. asset freezes) to more comprehensive sectoral approaches (targeting finance, trade, energy, etc.). With increasing worldwide tensions, EU restrictive measures are expanding at a more rapid pace.  The first training took place on 27 March 2025 (15:00 - 16:15), covering [Introducing the EU Sanctions Helpdesk – Supporting EU SMEs with Sanctions Compliance](https://eu-sanctions-compliance-helpdesk.europa.eu/events/introducing-eu-sanctions-helpdesk-supporting-eu-smes-sanctions-compliance-2025-03-27_en).  More information: <https://eu-sanctions-compliance-helpdesk.europa.eu/index_en>  [**Pesticides: new MRLs for Cycloxydim, Flupyradifurone and Phosphonic acid**](javascript:void(0);)  The EU published its Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/581 amending Annexes II and IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels for cycloxydim, dichlorprop-P, flupyradifurone, methyl nonyl ketone, plant oils/citronella oil, potassium sorbate and potassium phosphonate in or on certain products. As regards cycloxydim, an application requesting a modification of the existing MRLs was submitted for pome fruits, apricots/peaches, peas (with pods) and some other foods, pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The data was enough to derive new MRLs. As for flupyradifurone, new Codex levels (CXLs) are in place. The CXLs for flupyradifurone in pineapple and sunflower seeds should therefore be included in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005, based on the scientific report of EFSA and taking into account the relevant factors listed in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. As regards the MRLs for potassium phosphonate in poppy seeds, EFSA concluded that the data were sufficient to derive MRL proposals for the commodities under assessment. It concluded that the long-term intake of residues resulting from the new proposed uses of potassium phosphonates is unlikely to present a risk to consumer health.  New MRLs (mg/kg):  Cycloxydim  Pome fruits 0.4 Peas (with pods) 9  Flupyradifurone  Pineapples 0.3 (toka vika  Sunflower seeds 0.8  Phosphonic acid and its salts expressed as phosphonic acid (R)  Poppy seeds 200  Allt these substances have been detected in FRUCOM products.  This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (published 28.03.2025).  More information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500581>  [**Pesticides: voting results of the February 2025 standing committee**](javascript:void(0);)  The European Commission has published the meeting minutes from the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Phytopharmaceuticals – Pesticide Residues, on 17-18 February. Link: <https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/0d2941fe-29e0-4f9d-a72b-5190ed8f1220_en?filename=sc_phyto_20250217_ppr_sum.pdf>  **Section A Information and/or discussion**  A.03 Specific substances:  1. Glufosinate  Commission sent a mandate to EFSA to conduct a toxicological review and an updated risk assessment of the MRLs for glufosinate with a deadline of 15 June 2026  5. Thiacloprid  Commisson drafting a mandate to EFSA to evaluate endocrine disrupting properties.  These substances are present in the FRUCOM database.  A.12 Forthcoming draft Regulations (indicative only):  1. Cypermethrins  Output from EFSA proposing MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin and for cypermethrins (sum of isomers) is expected by the end March 2025. A draft Regulation will be presented for discussion at the next meeting of this Committee on 23-24 June 2025.  2. Dithiocarbamates, isopyrazam, myclobutanil, phenthoate  The Commission informed the Committee that some draft Regulations were temporarily put on hold awaiting guidance on the way forward from the new Commission. The EU reference laboratories provided an updated on the progress of the work on analytical methods able to discriminate different groups of dithiocarbamates.  All these substances are present in the FRUCOM database.  **Section B Draft(s) presented for an opinion**  B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation (EU) …/… amending Annexes II, III and IV to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for amidosulfuron, azoxystrobin, hexythiazox, isoxaben, picloram, propamocarb, sodium silver thiosulfate and tefluthrin in or on certain products  All these substances are present in the FRUCOM database, with the exception of sodium silver thiosulfate.  Vote taken: Favourable opinion.  B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation (EU) …/… amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for chlorpropham, fuberidazole, ipconazole, methoxyfenozide, S-metolachlor and triflusulfuron  All these substances are present in the FRUCOM database, with the exception of ipconazole.  Vote taken: Favourable opinion.  B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation (EU) …/… amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for cyantraniliprole, cyflumetofen, deltamethrin, mefentrifluconazole, mepiquat and oxathiapiprolin in or on certain products  These substances are present in the FRUCOM database, with the exception of mefentrifluconazole and oxathiapiprolin.  Vote taken: Favourable opinion.  B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation (EU) …/… amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for acetamiprid in or on certain products  Acetamiprid has been detected in the FRUCOM database.  Vote taken: Favourable opinion.  [**Notes – Meeting of the Agri-Food Chain Sustainability Roundtable 24th March**](javascript:void(0);)  The latest meeting of the Agri-Food Chain Sustainability Roundtable took place in hybrid mode on Monday 24 March 2025. The notes from this meeting can be found here.  [Notes\_Meeting of the Agri-food chain sustainability roundtable\_24032025](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2678)  [**Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation: Draft industry letter on Annex V Point 4 prohibiting single use plastic portion packaging in HORECA**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM members are invited to provide feedback on a letter drafted by Flexible Packaging Europe (FPE), which concerns industry concerns related to Annex V Point 4 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ,prohibiting single use plastic portion packaging in HORECA for certain products.  [2024-03-21\_Joint Industry Letter on Annex V point 4\_DRAFT](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2677)  The letter is based on the following principles:  ·Industry needs legal clarity asap in order to plan investments appropriately and look for feasible and sustainable alternatives  ·Therefore, guidelines should be published earlier than 12 February 2027, ideally by the end of this year  ·More specifically, we highlight two points where we would like to see explicit clarity on the PPWR guidelines:  oThe definition of “single use plastic packaging” (we do not take a position, we just ask for clarity)  oThe scope of “condiments, preserves, sauces, coffee creamer, sugar, and seasoning”  There is a sentence highlighted in yellow where space has been left empty to potentially include some practical examples of investment needed or time needed to adapt. Please share if you have some data or examples in that regard.  **FRUCOM Members are kindly requested to share their feedback by Wednesday 2 April COB**  [**FRUCOM Submission Consultation on EU-US Steel Aluminium - almonds, cranberries, and other products**](javascript:void(0);)  FRUCOM Members can access below the submission / letter by FRUCOM in response to the European Commission’s Information gathering under Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 regarding US measures on steel and aluminium.  [FRUCOM Submission 2025 EU-US Steel Aluminium - almonds cranberries and other products](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2668)  FRUCOM Members are encouraged to use this submission and its content, in whole or in part, as part of their engagement with the EU Members of Parliament, their National Permanent Representatives and National ministries dealing with this matter, to reinforce the need to remove the products concerned from the countermeasures to be adopted by the EU.  [**Pesticides: EFSA conclusion on MRL for deltamethrin in cherries**](javascript:void(0);)  EFSA published its conclusion on the modification of the existing MRL for deltamethrin in cherries. The applicant Bayer SAS submitted a request to the competent national authority in France to modify the existing MRL for the active substance deltamethrin in cherries. The data submitted in support of the request were found to be sufficient to derive a MRL proposal for cherries.  Based on the risk assessment results, EFSA concluded that the short‐term and long‐term intake of residues resulting from the use of deltamethrin according to the reported agricultural practices is unlikely to present a risk to consumer health.  Proposed MRL (mg/kg): 0.15 (currently 0.1)  The Commission with the Member States will now do their assessment based on the EFSA conclusion.  Deltamethrin has been detected in FRUCOM products, including cherries.  More information: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9314>  [**UK launches Government Action Plan on Pesticides**](javascript:void(0);)  The UK government has published the UK Pesticides National Action Plan (NAP), following the ban on neonicotinoid pesticides in England.  The Action Plan includes a pesticide reduction target of 10% until 2030. This aims at reducing potential environmental harm, rather than volume, and progress will be monitored using a Pesticide Load Indicator. The NAP will also promote Integrated Pest Management strategies to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.  More information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-boost-government-launches-first-action-plan-on-pesticides-in-a-decade>  [**RASFF NOTIFICATION: 2025/13 (24/03/2025 - 30/03/2025)**](javascript:void(0);)  Please find below a FRUCOM report compiling RASFF notifications of week 2025/13 (24/03/2025 - 30/03/2025).  Information provided in the report is based on RASFF notifications published on the DG SANTE’s online database  [FRUCOMRASFF2025\_Week13](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2669)    **DRIED FRUIT & NUTS**  [**Almendrave importers trip, April 29th-30th**](javascript:void(0);)  On April 29th-30th, Almendrave is organising the importers trip, which will take place in area in the province of Alicante, Comunidad Valenciana, Spain.  The event will be a two-day immersive mission in the almond production, focusing on the production model, technological advancements in the sector, and the almond processing industry, and highlight the value of locally produced almonds in Spain and foster commercial relationships between EU countries.  This initiative is supported by the European Union, which funds this project to emphasize the importance of almonds produced within its borders.  If you wish to participate, please contact: [almendrave@almendrave.com](mailto:almendrave@almendrave.com)  More information can be found in the event dossier: [DOSSIER WORKSHOPS SUSTAINABLE EU ALMOND SPAIN](https://frucom.eu/component/attachments/attachments.html?task=attachment&id=2672) | |