

EUPPA the European Potato Processors' Association in 2009

Board of directors in 2009 :



President: Kees Meijer



Secretary general:
Romain Cools



Vice-president: Ernst-Rainer
Schnetkamp

EUPPA is member of CIAA:

CIAA's mission is to represent the food and drink industries' interests, at the level of both European and international institutions.

In order to fulfil its mission, CIAA participates pro-actively in the development of an environment where all European food and drink companies (whatever their size) can compete effectively for sustainable growth in the context of an enlarged EU and global markets, as well as meeting consumers' needs and playing their part in delivering the targets set by the Lisbon declaration of the European Council – that is, to become the most competitive economy in the world by 2010.



CIAA's permanent secretariat, based in Brussels, is a major contact partner of/partner in consultations with the European and international institutions on food-related developments. It co-ordinates the work of more than 500 experts, grouped together in Committees and Expert Groups.

Through these Committees and Expert Groups, manufacturers from all EU countries provide broad and in-depth expertise. They contribute to establishing CIAA positions on key issues which, once approved, are then communicated to European and international decision makers.

Overview of the EUPPA participation in the CIAA meetings/working groups:

CDG/sector meetings	R. Cools
Process contaminants	P. Gondé and J. Soons
Food and Consumer Policy	N. Cattoor

Topics followed at CIAA level :

Nutrition:

1. Nutrition Labelling: Food Information to Consumers

CIAA is committed to improving the nutrition information provided to consumers. Many companies across Europe are already providing nutrition information on product labels, over and above legislative requirements. By encouraging the wider provision of nutrition information in a consistent manner, CIAA can make an important contribution to helping people make informed dietary choices.



The work that started in 2007 has continued in 2008 and 2009. The information scheme is already applied by a lot of actors in the food industry on their labels. In most European countries this initiative has been welcomed by the national/regional authorities and the other partners in the food chain. However in some countries national authorities or retailers stick to their own initiatives. CIAA continues its efforts to convince them to make use of the nutrition information scheme proposed by the European food industry and its members.

Lobbying will have to take place in 2010 on a number of proposed amendments which could have an important impact on our industry, e.g. origin labelling, national schemes, place of production,...

2. Nutritional profiles:

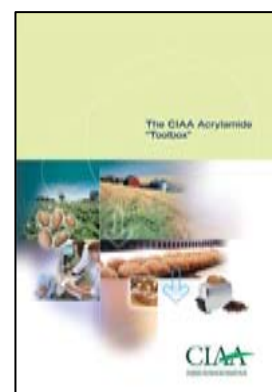
The Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims on Foods requires that foods bearing nutrition and health claims must meet certain nutritional requirements or so-called “nutrient profiles.” The setting of nutrient profiles is the responsibility of EU risk managers and ultimately, not all foods will be eligible to carry nutrition and health claims.

This dossier is political very difficult and has abruptly changed course in March 2009. During the ENVI voting of February 2010, the members voted against the profiles.

However, if the Parliament decides to taken this amendment on board again, the dossier will re-open.

3. Food contaminants:

The food industry, in close co-operation with the national authorities and the European Commission, has developed a 'toolbox' to highlight ways to lower levels of acrylamide in food. Short extracts of the toolbox have been developed in form of sector specific brochures. These Acrylamide Pamphlets are targeted at SMEs and provide tools successfully tested on an industrial scale as well as a step-by-step approach on how to implement them. Both toolbox and pamphlets were updated in 2009.



P. Gondé and J. Soons attend the meetings of the Process Contaminants WG of CIAA. They are also member of the EUPPA – ESA WG on nutrition and contaminants (acrylamide, 3-MCPD esters, heavy metals,..).

4. Additives:

EUPPA collaborated with CIAA on the EC request to supply data for the purpose of refining the dietary intake of food additives.

The EC is filling in the annexes for the new Additives Regulation 1333/2008 which means all additives are under review.

This work continues in 2010.

In 2009, the final decision of the EC has come in regard to pyrophosphate (disodium diphosphate); after a long discussion it is decided that puron is an additive and should be labelled. The official position of EUPPA is that labelling should be done in compliance with this decision.

Environment:

Sustainability

In December 2007 DG ENV invited EuroCommerce to sign the Environmental Performance Agreement including a.o. also food products. Although CIAA lobbied to get all partners of the food chain in this forum, the so-called Retail Forum has as only members DG ENV and EuroCommerce.

CIAA has subsequently launched a new initiative called the SCP Food Chain Roundtable.

This European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Round Table is a public-private initiative that is co-chaired by the European Commission and food supply chain partners and supported by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and European Environment Agency.

There are 24 member organisations representing the European food supply chain. Participation in the European Food SCP Round Table is also open to consumer representative organisations and environmental/nature conservation NGOs.

The European Food SCP Round Table's vision is to promote a science-based, coherent approach to sustainable consumption and production in the food sector across Europe, while taking into account environmental interactions at all stages of the food chain. A key principle is that environmental information communicated along the food chain, including to consumers, shall be scientifically reliable and consistent, understandable and not misleading, so as to support informed choice.

The aim is to establish the food chain as a major contributor towards sustainable consumption and production in Europe.

The European Food SCP Round Table's activities will not only help to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Europe's food chain, but also support EU policy objectives, notably those outlined in the European Commission's Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Sustainable Industrial Policy.

More information: <http://www.food-scp.eu/>



General issues :

General issues related to the food industry and the functioning of CIAA are discussed at the CDG meetings of this organisation. Since the new structure of CIAA has been voted in the new statutes and internal rules of the European food industry association, the role of the CDG (committee of directors general) has increased as an intermediate between the CIAA board and EXCOM and the national and sector organisations.

R. Cools assisted to the following CDG meetings, which are also linked when possible to the member state chairing the EU :

- 2-3/2/2009 in Prague
- 4-5/6/2009 in Stockholm
- 25/9/2009 in Brussels.

EUPPA was apologised for the CDG meeting in Madrid (18/11/2009).

The following issues have been treated at these meetings in 2009, which are fully reported to the EUPPA members :

- GDA's, nutrition & health claims, food information to consumers (labelling)
- European SCP round table
- CIAA road map & CIAA governance
- High level group
- GMO's and nanotechnology
- Diet, health & physical activity platform
- Food prices, promotion and quality policy for agricultural products.

Specific EUPPA activities :

Contaminants :

Acrylamide

Cooperation with ESA, the European Snack Association

A technical working group consisting out of representatives of both EUPPA and ESA are meeting on a regularly basis to discuss the newest developments in acrylamide research, the update of the CIAA toolbox and pamphlets and other contaminants which may form a threat to the sector.

UGent project

In October 2007 EUPPA participated in a one year project on acrylamide executed by the Ghent University (Prof. De Meulenaer) and co financed by the Flemish authorities (Flanders' Food) and Belgapom. The project could be split up in 2 parts: the first part (WP1) was a correlation study between fry colour, reducing sugars and acrylamide; the second part (WP2) focused on the effect of pre-treatments on the acrylamide level. For this second part, a long list of possible additives was drawn up and was evaluated based on a set of criteria. This project finished on 31st December 2008.

A prolongation to this project started 1st January 2009 and officially ended on 30/11/2009, although the work continued till February 2010. The steering committee of this project has met on a regular basis.

The project can be seen as quite unique; the collaboration between industry and the academic world to do real scale industrial tests have proven to be successful. The outcome of the study

will be introduced in the update on acrylamide and shared during a scheduled seminar in 2010.

Database

On suggestion of CIAA EUPPA took the initiative to start up a database with results of acrylamide analyses so companies can benchmark their results with similar companies. This database has proven to be very important in backing up discussions with other stakeholders and authorities based on numerical data.

The CIAA acrylamide toolbox

This toolbox reflects the results of several years of industry cooperation to understand acrylamide formation and potential intervention steps. Its aim is to provide brief descriptions of the intervention steps evaluated and, in many cases, already implemented by food manufacturers and other partners in the food chain. This approach is intended to assist individual manufacturers, including small and medium size enterprises with limited R&D resources, to assess and evaluate which of the intervention steps identified so far may be helpful to reduce acrylamide formation in their specific manufacturing processes and products. It is important that they assess the suitability of proposed mitigation steps in the light of the actual composition of their products, their manufacturing equipment, and their need to continue to provide consumers with quality products consistent with their brand image and consumer expectations.



It is anticipated that some of the tools and parameters will also be helpful within the context of domestic food preparation and in food service establishments, where stringent control of cooking conditions may be more difficult.

http://www.ciaa.eu/asp/documents/brochures_form.asp?doc_id=65

EUPPA and ESA took care of the CIAA toolbox for processed potato products and snacks. This toolbox, including the acrylamide pamphlets, has been revised in 2009. In the update, reference is made to the UGent project.

The relevant website of the European Commission on contaminants provides a link to the CIAA acrylamide toolbox :

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/contaminants/acrylamide_en.htm.

EFSA monitoring

In May 2009, EFSA published their monitoring report of 2007 on acrylamide in European food stuffs. The report is a compilation of all monitoring data sent in by the MS. The conclusion of the report is that for a number of products, under which french fries, there is no reduction in acrylamide levels.

On 26/10/2009, EUPPA was part of the CIAA delegation who was present at the meeting of EU experts on environmental contaminants where this report was presented by EFSA.

The monitoring data of EFSA was challenged by industry data. The experts await the EFSA monitoring reports for 2008 and 2009 to draw any final conclusions.

3 MCPD esters

3-monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD) is a substance are found in nearly all refined fats and oils. At the moment, little is known on the toxicity of 3-MCPD esters. However, the last EFSA advice from 2008 states that they consider that all 3-MCPD (also referred to as “free” 3-MCPD) in the human body comes from the 3-MCPD esters.

The Food & Health Committee is following the new developments on this topic closely and had a meeting with Fediol on 03/11/2009.

RUCIP :

EUPPA is a member of the European RUCIP committee, together with Europatat and Intercoop. This committee is organising the RUCIP rules and usages for the international potato trade, and includes also an expertise & arbitration system for the potato trade.

The EUPPA representative in this committee is R. Cools. At a meeting on 19/11/2009 C. van Arendonk (Europatat) has been elected as president, succeeding the retired J. Stet. Also the financial framework for the European RUCIP secretariat in Paris has been approved as well as the creation of a working group to modernise and simplify the current edition of RUCIP 2006.

www.europatat.eu/de/rucip

DG AGRI Potato forecast group :

On demand of Copa Cogeca DG Agri has created a potato forecast group, bringing together the stakeholders of the European potato chain (Copa Cogeca (producers and cooperatives), Europatat (seed and ware potato trade) and EUPPA (processing industry)) and the DG Agri of the European Commission.

The EUPPA delegation is composed out of Mr. K. Meijer and Mr. B. Hornecker. R. Cools is also participating as observer.

At the meeting on 30/11/2009 the following issues have been discussed at the meeting of this forecast group, which has reduced its numbers of meetings from 2 to 1 per year :

- The functioning of the food supply chain in Europe
- Cereals market evolution
- EU agricultural product quality policy
- Potato market situation
 - Summary of the statistical working document
 - Tour de table and discussion
- Import of Egyptian ware potatoes.

FNK :

EUPPA has worked out a collaboration with the FNK (Forschungsvereinigung der Hersteller von Nahrungsmittel aus Kartoffeln). In 2006 the board of FNK has asked EUPPA to take over the activities of this association, which had been created by the European potato processing industry. The activities of FNK have now been integrated within EUPPA, as the actual board of both organisations is the same.



FNK co organised the seminar at the EUPPA general assembly in Parma (Italy) on 15/5/2009 during which Dr. Ralf Reintjes, head of the Emerging Risk Unit of EFSA, which is located in Parma, presented the functioning of the European Food Safety Agency.



General Assembly 14 – 16/05/2009 in Parma (Italy)



AIIPA hosted the 48th General Assembly of UEITP/EUPPA. 21 delegates and 13 partners attended this event in the Grand Hotel de la Ville in Parma (Italy).

At the General assembly in Parma a new name and logo for UEITP has been selected. The new name for the “European Potato processors’ Association”, abbreviated ‘EUPPA’ has been agreed. At the General Assembly of 2008 in Edinburgh, EPPA was agreed, however the availability of the abbreviation

EPPA still needed to be checked. Since this abbreviation was already reserved, the alternative ‘EUPPA’ has been selected.

Also the administrative issues as account and balance sheet at 31/12/2008 and the budget 2009 (incl. membership contributions) were discussed.

Also the discussion on the labelling of the processing aid disodium diphosphate as a labelling has been treated, as well as different CIAA issues and contaminants.

At the general assembly the steering committee for 2009 – 2011 has been elected: K. Meijer (NL) as president, E.-R. Schnetkamp (DE) as vice-president and R. Cools (BE) as secretary general were re elected. The 2 auditors, Mr. A. Wallays and Mr. R. Harris are also continuing their work for the next 2 years.

The first discussion on the question how to develop EUPPA in the future as voice of the potato processing sector in Europe has been launched at this general assembly.

In the framework of the EUPPA general assembly the common EUPPA/FNK seminar on the functioning of the EFSA, located in Parma, took place.

Board meetings of EUPPA in 2009 :

The EUPPA board gathered twice in Brussels in 2009 on the following subjects :

- **10/2/2009 :**
 - Raw material
 - Revision of Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market.
 - Presentation by Euros Jones (EPCA) on the triologue proposal and further actions.
 - Actions by UEITP/EUPPA and other partners.
 - ‘Health’ technical commission of UEITP
 - Acrylamide
 - UEITP study by the UGent: prolongation of the project : actual situation.
 - Databank from individual companies.
 - Participation Prof. B. De Meulenaer on behalf of UEITP in meeting with Swiss delegation on 11/11/2008 in Bern: report of the meeting.

- 3MCPD : participation of P. Gondé on behalf of UEITP at the ILSI workshop (5-6/2/2009).
 - Nutritional labelling.
 - Food information to consumers.
 - 'Environment' technical commission of UEITP
 - CIAA working groups: SCP and Environmental Commission.
 - Representation members in UEITP environment committee.
 - Trade issues
 - Iceland/Canada treaty.
 - Internal matters
 - UEITP statutes of an international non profit association according to Belgian law : final proposal.
 - CIAA :
 - CDG meeting on 2&3/02/2009 in Prague.
 - Board and EXCOM elections.
 - Launching of the new name EPPA and website (www.potatoprocessors.eu).
 - Finances :
 - Secretarial fee.
- **12/10/2009 :**
 - 'Health' technical commission of EUPPA
 - Report of the health technical commission meeting (joined with ESA) of 9/10/2009.
 - Acrylamide
 - Report of the steering group meeting of the Flanders' Food project on acrylamide of 6/10/2009.
 - Databank from individual companies : status.
 - Nutritional labelling.
 - Food information to consumers :
 - Additives.
 - 'Environment' technical commission of EUPPA
 - European SCP round table.
 - National actions on labelling of environmental information. Input from the national secretariats.
 - Update of the EU catalogue feed materials : potato by products.
 - Raw material
 - Harvest 2009 : round table.
 - Labelling origin of raw material.
 - Internal matters
 - Status of the statutes of EUPPA.
 - CIAA :
 - Report of the CDG meeting on 25/9.2009 in Brussels.
 - EUPPA initiative in the European Parliament : 1/2/2010.
 - Report of the working group meeting on 12/10/2009.
 - Future functioning of EUPPA.

Working groups active in EUPPA in 2009 :

Technical Commission Health legislation: P. Gondé (chairman), J. Soons, H.-P. Karos, J.-C. Van Ceunenbroeck, S. van Gerwen, M. van Hoof, K. Hennemann, H. Leerssen and N. Cattoor. A lot of the work is done by telephone conference and e-mail.
Meeting on : 9/10/2009 and 3/11/2009.

Technical Commission Environment: Chr. Freitag, P. Kralt and N. Cattoor
A lot of the work is done by telephone conference and e-mail.

Former UEITP secretary general deceased :



Eric Demarrez, who has been secretary general of UEITP for 10 years has deceased on 20/10/2009 at the age of 70.
His successor since 2006 R. Cools assisted to his funeral on 6/11/2009 in Frechen-Koenigsdorf (Germany) .

The EUPPA-secretariat :

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