



AREFLH Annual Forum: a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from the European F&V sector

The AREFLH is organising its annual event on 4 November, in Brussels and online, to bring together representatives of the European institutions, the regions and professionals from the fruit and vegetable sector. It will focus on two topical issues: the next Common Agricultural Policy and sustainable crop protection.

The role of the regions and fruit & vegetables sectoral interventions in the next CAP

The next CAP (2028-2034) is taking shape with a shrinking budget and far-reaching structural reforms: the end of protected rural development and new co-financing rules that risk undermining the integrity of the single market. These developments could reduce the role of the regions and weaken the sectors, particularly that of fruit and vegetables.

Faced with these challenges, it is crucial to reflect collectively on the role of the regions and the F&V sector in order to influence the future CAP and maintain a high level of economic, social and environmental ambition.

Innovation for sustainable crop protection

Against a backdrop of continuing reductions in the number of authorised active substances and increasing pressure from climate change, innovation is becoming essential to guarantee sustainable plant protection. New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and the development of biopesticides - supported by a recent report from the European Parliament calling for their registration and mutual recognition to be accelerated - are paving the way for new solutions. This session will explore how these tools can fit into integrated production.

Renowned speakers

For this second edition, the AREFLH Annual Forum will bring together leading European politicians and recognised experts. Former and current MEPs will share their vision of the future of the CAP, alongside representatives of the European Commission, who will shed light on the debates on current reforms. Their discussions will provide a cross-section of political decision-makers, institutions and grassroots actors.

An event not to be missed

Ramón Fernandez-Pacheco, President of AREFLH, is inviting all stakeholders in the agricultural sector to take part in the event. He believes that *"we are faced with many challenges and concerns, but AREFLH, with its structure bringing together the driving forces of our regions and the field professionals, is determined to defend the fruit and vegetable sector"*.

The programme and registration link are available on the AREFLH website:

<https://www.areflh.org/en/about-us/annual-forum-en?layout=blog>

The mission of AREFLH, the Assembly of European Horticultural Regions, is to:

- Represent its members: regions, APOs, Pos, and expert members from 15 European countries.
- Defend the economic and social interests of the fruit and vegetable sectors in Europe.
- Encourage exchanges of experience, partnerships, and joint projects between regions and professional organisations.
- Be a driving force behind proposals on the main issues affecting the future of the sector's production in Europe.

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