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NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026 | Information on AREFLH activities and on the fruit & vegetable sector
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NEWS FROM AREFLH



Participation in the Agrifood Days conference

Michele Gentile, AREFLH EU Policy Officer, took part in the EU Agrifood Days organised by the European Commission. The third edition of this annual event took place from 15 to 17 December 2025 in Brussels. Its main theme was "**Ensuring Europe's food and agricultural security**".

The conference opened with an interview with Commissioner **Christophe Hansen** on the future of the EU's agricultural and food policy.

The second day was devoted to **market and long-term prospects** for agriculture. It was marked by the presentation of the Agricultural Outlook 2025 report, a key reference for understanding the structural trends that will shape EU agriculture in the years to come.

To find out more, check out AREFLH's publications on LinkedIn for [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#). You can also watch again some of the [presentations on the European Commission's website](#).



General Assembly 16-17 March 2026

The next AREFLH General Assembly will be held on 16 and 17 March 2026 in Almeria, Andalusia (Spain). The programme is currently being drawn up but, you can register by [following this link](#). A public conference will be held on the afternoon of 17 March. It is open to all, either in person or online.



**Andalusia:
strategy for unconventional water resources**

The Andalusia region is launching its strategy for non-conventional water resources. This is an instrument established for the reuse of regenerated water and desalination. Its aim is to improve the Autonomous Community's hydraulic security and resilience while facing periods of drought and the effects of climate change. This tool will be used to guide decisions on future hydrographic plans, and is also being incorporated into work to prepare Andalusia's 2028-2033 hydrological plans.

[Read the original Fruit Today article](#) (in Spanish)

[Read a Google translation.](#)

RESEARCH & INNOVATION



**Waste4Soil:
“turning food waste into sustainable soil improvers for
better soil health”**

The Finnish University of Applied Sciences LAB, a partner in the Waste4Soil project, has published an article in Vilnius Tech entitled “public perception of sustainable biofertilizers from food processing residues”. It examines how citizens perceive biofertilisers and soil improvers made from food processing residues.

[Find out more](#)



**LivingSoiLL :
healthy soils for vineyards and orchards of hazelnuts,
apples, chestnuts and olives**

AREFLH is a partner in the European LivingSoiLL project. It focuses on the promotion of **healthy soils for permanent crops**.

One of the project's commitments is to develop a Community of Practice involving various stakeholders at national and international level. Any interested person or organisation is invited to give their opinion on soil practices, in order to increase knowledge on this crucial subject.

[Read the article](#)

CONSUMPTION - PROMOTION



Info Days on the 2026 agrifood promotion calls for proposal

To find out more about the next funding opportunities to promote EU agricultural products, you can attend the 2026 information days, which will be held in Brussels and online on 27 and 28 January 2026. Registration are open.

[Find out more](#)

NEWS FROM EUROPE



Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the EU: 1 January - 30 June 2026

Cyprus assumes the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU for the second time, this time as part of a trio presidency with Poland and Denmark.

Under the motto "An autonomous Union open to the world", Cyprus will work towards a more autonomous Union. "Autonomy is the next necessary step in our evolving European integration project.

[Website of the Cypriot Presidency](#)

[Priorities of the Cypriot Presidency](#)

[Programme of the Cypriot Presidency](#)



Bulgaria, 21st country to join the euro zone

On 1 January 2026, 19 years after joining the European Union, Bulgaria officially adopted the euro, becoming the 21st country to use the single currency.

This accession strengthens Economic and Monetary Union and confirms the stability and attractiveness of the euro within Europe.

[Read the article from the European Union](#)



EU agri-food trade surplus at its highest level for over a year

The EU's agri-food trade surplus rose sharply in October 2025, reaching €6.4 billion. This represents an 18% increase on September and is the highest monthly surplus for over a year. The surplus was 19% higher than in October last year.

[Read the article](#)

AGENDA



Upcoming events of the F&V sector in Europe

13-15 January : [SIVAL](#), the International Fair of plant production techniques, in Angers, France

22-23 January: [Horizon Europe Information Days](#) in Brussels and online - Cluster 6 food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.

27-28 January : [Information Day on the promotion of European agricultural products](#), in Brussels and online

4-6 February: Fruit Logistica in Berlin, Germany

16-17 March: AREFLH General Assembly in Almeria, Spain.

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