



Our Goals for the Near Future!

Welcome address by the President of CEBP, Mr Henri Wagener.

The first meeting of the newly formed CEBP executive board took place on 1st March 2011 in Brussels. The board agreed to schedule the work programme in line with the European calendar. With its mix of active professionals and administrators, the new structure of the board is considered ideal to tackling the tasks ahead.

On the topic of the approach of European legislation, the President proposed evaluating every new directive in the interest of SMEs. The following questions are fundamental:

- Can the new legislation be implemented in practice?
- Is the proposed change viable, and does it provide any added value?

Furthermore, the following questions will need to be answered satisfactorily:

- Will the directive improve the quality of products?
- Will it improve the quality of service?
- Will it preserve current levels of consumer confidence in bakery and confectionery goods?

As a voice for the interests and concerns of the industry, it is essential that the CEBP meets with officials from the European Commission and its Directorates General, specifically DG Sanco and DG Enterprise.



It is also vital that the CEBP extends its network in the European parliament. Collaboration with MEPs who support us, i.e. Dr Renate Sommer and Dr Peter Liese, needs to be continued. Further work is to be invested in gaining new supporters from different member states and various political groups in the European Parliament.

CEBP messages must be passed on by member federations to brief politicians at the national level. Only then can we exert influence on the decisions national Ministers take when they assemble in Brussels for the meetings in the European Council. The CEBP must also play a role in surveillance of the transposition of EU legislation at national level. This must be done to avoid and combat any attempt of gold plating by national legislators in a way that can disadvantage companies.

The objectives are to identify, combat, and eliminate examples of bad practices, such as

- Research funds used against the bakery industry (salt debate, for example)
- Financial aid to enforce stricter Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) norms
- Financial aid for direct selling in the agricultural sector

Another issue is the seamless increase in administrative burdens for companies. Wherever possible, we need to avoid the vicious circle of legislation-transposition-control-sanctions. Excessive certification, in addition, further slows down the ability of companies to generate growth and jobs. For us to be representative on a European level, the highest possible number of national federations from EU Member States must become members of the CEBP, which represents the interests of over 195,000 companies and over 2 million employees.

Conclusion:

these are the goals we must meet in the near future.

European Freedom of Movement for Workers Effective on 1st May 2011

Since 1st May 2011, workers and citizens of the eight central and eastern European states that joined the EU in 2004 now have the right to move and reside freely within the EU. The countries to which the directive now applies are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary. This marks the end of transitional provisions that were valid for the past seven years.

Freedom of movement for workers now offers companies the chance to counter the potential shortage in skills. Regardless of their country of residence in the EU, citizens are now free to pursue employment in any member state under the same conditions as the nationals of these countries. Since May 2011, work permits that were still required in some countries are no longer needed. This applies to all employees – regardless of their qualifications, length of employment and industry. According to the EU directive on the right of citizens to move freely within the EU, all that is now needed officially is

for a declaratory certificate of residence to be issued (by the immigration authorities in most countries).

This also means that no further limitations apply to vocational training employment. From 1st May 2011 applicants from all EU member states can start training programmes as skilled workers in the recognized professions without a special work permit. In addition to trainees, interns can also be employed without restriction.



Food Information Regulation Passed

The agreement on Food Information Regulation (FIR) has been accepted by the European Parliament at the second reading on 6th July 2011. The FIR is finally passed. We are quite satisfied with the results we achieved. For one, it will be enough to provide allergen information, which means that there no mandatory labelling will be enforced. The form of expression and presentation of information will then be

a matter of the member states. Furthermore, “prepacked food for immediate consumption” is exempted from the definition of prepackaged goods, and handcrafted food – supplied directly in small quantities – is explicitly exempt from the compulsory nutrition declaration. The transition period for the implementation of the regulations will apply for a minimum of least three years.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an advisory committee of the European Union.

1. Presentation:

Structure:

The EESC is made up of 344 members, from the social and economic sectors in Europe. They are titled as consultant/ advisors.

The country distribution is as follows:

- Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom: 24 members each
- Spain and Poland: 21 members each
- Romania: 15 members
- Belgium, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria: 12 members each
- Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Lithuania, Slovakia: 9 members each
- Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia: 7 members each
- Luxembourg and Cyprus: 6 members each
- Malta: 5 members

Members are proposed by national governments and are appointed by the Council of the European Union for a period of 5 years (extendable). The last extension was in October 2010 for a renewable period from 2010 - 2015.

Role:

The EESC is a consultative authority.

The advice of the committee is binding or not binding on behalf of the Commission or the Council; however, the committee can also put forward its views on own initiatives.

The committee advises at the beginning of legislative processes on regulations or directives regarding projects. It also reviews various green papers (discussion papers on specific topics), or communications from the commission. When the EESC gets a question, a research group is appointed to review the opinions expressed. They are then subsequently adopted in a plenary session, which takes

place once a month. Every year the EESC submits an average of 170 advisory papers and opinions. The views of the committee are transferrable to the decisions of municipal authorities and are immediately published in the official report of the European Community.

Organisation:

The consultants are divided into three groups: Employers (Group I), wages and salaries (Group II), and various activities (Group III).

The EESC has six divisions:

- Agriculture, rural development and the environment
- Economic and monetary union and economic and social cohesion
- Labour, social affairs, citizenship
- Foreign economic relations
- Single market, production and consumption
- Transportation, energy, infrastructure and information society

Staffan Nilsson is the current president of the EESC. Mr. Jean-Pierre Crouzet (first vice-president of UPA, president of CGAD and president of the Bakery and Confectionery Association) is the representative for the French trade. For this title, he is also a member of Group 1 (the French delegation in Group 1 has 7 members). Mr. Crouzet is a member of the labour, social affairs, citizenship division (SOC department) and the chairman of the division. He is also a member of the single market, production and consumption division (INT department).



Mr. Jean-Pierre Crouzet

2. Current Activities of the EESC:

The EESC deals with many different topics. For example, at the last plenary session in July, it dealt with the following topics: the public electronic market, the education →

crisis, the labour market and services in the single market (mutual understanding)...

The questions are sometimes far removed from the concerns of the food industry, but also touch upon essential issues for the various industries (e.g. direct sales of agricultural products, professional qualification, and so on). Constant vigilance therefore requires harmless views at first glance. In addition, direct observations can be of interest to an industry. Although Mr. Crouzet was not yet a member of the EECS at the time, the intention to regulate consumer information was checked by the EECS in 2008. It affects ongoing work that must be marked:

- Statement on the "Small Business Act" (the review by the INT division ends in August)
- Statement on making teaching and training more attractive (review by the SOC division in November)

It also affects future work that must be marked:

- Statement on competition policy
- Statement on youth work, technical competence and flexibility

These issues will therefore be pursued by Mr. Crouzet in particular.

Bundesverband der Bäcker Österreichs

The CEBP is currently made up of 18 federations with differing set-ups from country to country. Here, we would like to introduce you to our members, one by one:

Austria

The Bundesverband der Bäcker Österreichs (Federation of Austrian Bakers) is part of the Austrian Bundesinnung der Lebensmittelgewerbe (national guild of the catering trade) and represents the interests of all commercial bakers in Austria. By law, every entrepreneur who owns a business license for a bakery is automatically a member of the federal guild of the catering trade.

1,734 companies in the baking trade employ 21,500 workers and generate a total turnover of €1.4 billion per year. 92% of the bread and pastry products made in Austria are made in craft bakery production facilities (only 8% in plant bakeries).

The federal guild represents its members in all areas, i.e. both in technical and general political and legal affairs. The federal guild is therefore the only collective contractual partner on the side of employers vis-à-vis the unions. Representation spans a wide range of services – from training (apprentice and master examination) to certification as a craft baker. In the legal sector, the emphasis is on food, business and labour and social law. A special feature is that the guild was authorized by federal law to issue master baker examination regulations by decree.

Further training activities are bundled in a separate company, the Austrian Food Academy, with its headquarters in the national guild.

Under the umbrella of the national guild, the nine federal states each set up their own state guild of the catering trade to provide direct, local support for members.





The Problem with Agrofuel

Subsidized cultivation of fast-growing energy crops for agrofuels is increasingly leading to more competition for fields and arable land in some member states. With the rising fuel demand for a growing world population, cereal supplies used for making feed and foodstuffs are on the decrease. New customers like China, which is only just discovering bread as a staple food for itself, is a driving force behind this development. Around the world, arable land for food and raw materials is becoming increasingly scarce. The consequence is that prices are rising for our raw materials. According to a study by the British government, “The Future

of Food and Farming“, agricultural products like corn and wheat will become at least 50% more expensive by 2050.

It is still unclear whether agro fuels are actually poorer in carbon dioxide, or whether they even make a positive contribution to climate protection. The EU is not capable of producing the required amount of biofuel or raw materials by itself and therefore depends on imports. Additional acreage – outside Europe – inevitably leads to further deforestation. The problem is that the billions of tons of carbon stored in forests are then also released in the process.

Events:

Country/Association:	Event:	Date:	Place:
Germany	General assembly	11-13 September 2011	Lübeck
CEBP	Meeting of the Board	11 October 2011	Brussels
CEBP	Reception with members of the EU-Parliament	11 October 2011 (evening)	Brussels
CEBP	General Assembly	12 October 2011	Brussels

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