New CEBP-President Jos den Otter: CEBP matters

Dear baker and confectioners colleagues

As your new elected President of the CEBP I would like to thank you first of all for the confidence you have given me during the last General Assembly of the CEBP on June 19, 2013 to represent you during the coming three years. I would also like to thank our former President Henri Wagener, for having fulfilled this ‘job’ for the last six years with all his bakers ‘heart and soul’.

I consider it an honor to follow the footsteps of Mr. Wagener and to be able to represent the craft sector for bakeries and confectioners on a European level. I realize that most of the matters we encounter in The Netherlands are similar abroad: The craft sector is under strain and the economic crisis has reached al lot of our colleagues all over Europe. Next to that ‘Brussels’ is getting stronger in matters of legislation and regulation. Therefore it is more important than ever to stick together and face problems as a ‘team’.

Right now CEBP has a ‘hard core’ of about ten to twelve countries who contribute to the federation. In order to be able to represent all European bakers and confectioners it is important that more European countries not only join the CEBP, but also pay their membership-fee. Only by doing so CEBP can get the profile of a strong and credible association with a well-heard voice in Brussels.

A stronger lobby in Brussels will be one of our main goals during the coming period. Elections for the European Parliament will take place in May 2014, which means that we have to get in contact with new MeP’s or with MeP’s who have changed places. Until than it is important to create our own priorities and - by doing so - our own ‘political agenda’ which we can bring forward in Brussels. And for sure we cannot do this on our own. We need our members to think along and to contribute in an active way, which means attending meetings and keeping in contact with each other.

During the General Assembly of the CEBP on June 19, 2013 I already have met and spoken to a lot of members. As your new European President I look forward to meet you all soon during one of our next meetings or to get in touch with you during a personal meeting. If you have any questions for me, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Jos den Otter, President CEBP

Index of content

Law and politics..........................................................Page 2

Events.................................................................Page 7
Former President Henri Wagener

My dear colleagues Bakers and Confectioners

Just like the diversity of products, biodiversity plays a key role in the survival of human beings who derive from it drinking water, raw materials and especially food. This is why we must bring the debate on biodiversity back to the core issues and decisions, as its interrelationships are an essential resource for our survival.

The decline in biodiversity has a direct impact on crops of cereals, our main raw material.

And this decline will be even greater in the coming decades mainly because of climate change economic growth and crop misused as Bio Fuel, which is a striking example. There is biodiversity and territory. There is biodiversity and the economy.

A second phenomenon of reducing the diversity in our world and specifically here in Europe is that incessant appetite to want to regulate every step of the production-processing-consumption process. What we gain in so-called security on the one hand, we lose in diversity, originality, flavor on another side.

Continuing on a restrictive path, will favor economically efficient monocultures and easily traceable, certainly, but as a corollary the production of single products will reduce the attractiveness of our daily market.

A brief foray into the animal world, demonstrates just how much you can exaggerate the absurd. An ape who used to live in a circus, smoked a cigarette after his performance with a beer in hand. Its new director replied that in his establishment all animals are properly maintained according to their species. From now on no more than cigarettes and alcohol.

I hope these examples will not take over. It will be worthwhile to analyze whether each directive and each regulation is applicable in practice.

The diversity of our products in respect of biodiversity is the only possible solution. Products made with the freshest ingredients in accordance with best professional traditions, guarantee a high quality product.

To do this, a good education is the cornerstone of each business and thus ensures a move towards three essential pillars:

Motivation, Innovation, and Perseverance.

Do not forget that the craft is a unifying technical education of high added value, allowing future generations to assert themselves in their lives.

Henri Wagener
Honorific speech from General Secretary Amin Werner to Mr. Henri Wagener

Since 2007, so about 6 years we have had the great joy that a special personality of the European Bakers and Confectioners craft has guided the destinies of our CEBP. You all know who I'm talking about.

Dear Henri, we are all very grateful, that you have campaigned with your unique resoluteness for our interests on European level.

1975 you became master baker and confectioner in Luxembourg and at the same time you took over your bakery and pastry shop. From the beginning, you've been very active for the interests of your profession so that you were elected as Vice President of the Luxembourg bakers and confectioners in 1986. It was only logical that you were chosen by your Luxembourg Association as CEO in 1999. In this function you took care also for the interests of the European bakers and confectioners and engage you within the CEBP. As already mentioned you were then elected to the CEBP president in 2007.

You have shown your commitment also within the Chamber of Luxembourg, in which you were a Committee Member from 2008 - 2012 and at the same time you were also spokesman for the food craft. As a member of the examination committee, you have campaigned for trainees and you were even treasurer of our World Association UIB for many years. It should be mentioned, that you are also a Committee member of the Richemont Club Luxembourg.

Your special voluntary work for the bakers and confectioners in Luxembourg had also been honored several times:

- So you get the silver and gold awards from the Chamber of Luxembourg.
- You are an officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
- You are a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Oak.
- And finally you were appointed as Officer of the Order of the Crown of Oak in 2012.

You my dear Henri, I thank you on behalf of all CEBP Members for your special exemplary commitment as President of our Association CEBP.

Amin Werner, Secretary General
The new composition of the CEBP Board

At the General Assembly 2013, Jos den Otter was unanimously elected as the new CEBP President. Mr. den Otter, the President of the Dutch Association of Bakers (NBOV) follows the Luxembourger Henri Wagener into office.

At his side are Mr. Peter Becker, President of the German Bakers’ Confederation and President of the UIB, who was reconfirmed as the CEBP Vice President in his position, and newly CEBP Vice President Mr. Michalis Mousius, President of the Greece Hellenic Federation of Bakers.

The General Assembly reconfirmed Mr. Carsten Wickmann, Managing Director of the Danish Confederation of Master Bakers and Confectionaries (BKD) and Mr. José Maria Fernandez del Vallado, Secretary General of the Spanish Association of Bakers (CEOPAN) as well as of the UIB as CEBP Board Members.

The CEBP Secretary General remains Mr. Amin Werner, the General Secretary of the German Bakers’ Confederation.

European Court of Justice - Decision concerning transparency regulations of the Member States

The European Court of Justice (ECR) had adjudicated in a decision from April 11th, 2013 (case C-636/11) on a national law that allows state authorities to warn about food products not just dangerous to health but also produced under certain hygienic circumstances and thus only nauseous. The case was brought to the ECR by a German Court but the decision of the judges also has effects to similar laws in other Member states of the EU. The question was whether Article 10 of Regulation 178/2002 represents a final regulation for food information to the public, or if the Member States may could create their own standards, which have as a precondition, a lower intervention limit. The European Court of Justice has decided in favor of the publishing authorities. The Court justified its decision by pointing out that even food which is unfit for consumption, would need to be classified as "not safe" in the sense of Community Law. These food did not meet, intended by the regulation, the high food safety protection level.
Various food scandals (e.g. the dioxin-case), but also the increasing interest of consumers in information on food-related issues have resulted in a continuous broadening of state competences to inform the public about violations of food law. Against this development, it has been argued that EU food law – completely harmonised insofar – permits informing the public only in case of risks to human health, but not below this threshold, namely in cases of food unfit for human consumption or fraudulent/deceptive practices (horse meat). The ECJ has rejected this interpretation without, however, ultimately determining the scope of possible Member State action. Moreover, the degree of confidentiality to be observed by national authorities merits attention since the ECJ has raised this issue.

As a result the ECR said that Member States Authorities may take warnings about food that is not hazardous to health, however not suitable for consumption. Therefore the court tracks a restrictive transparency food law understanding. However, the Member States must adhere to their transparency regulation, in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation 882/2004, the protection of confidential information.

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**Commission follow-up to the ‘Top Ten’ consultation of SMEs on EU regulation**

The European Commission published a notification called "Commission follow-up to the ‘Top Ten’ consultation of SMEs on EU regulation" on 18th June 2013. We pleased our CEBP Members in the CEBP Express no. 1 to take part in a survey and then submitted the results to our Members via CEBP Express no 5.

The now present notification provides an overview of the progress made in these 10 sectors, which were perceived most burdened according to the consultation of SMEs conducted by the Commission.

The Commission emphasizes about the already made actions for each of the 10 legislative measures that are listed in the "Top 10". The Commission illustrates in each case, which burden the interrogated SMEs had stated and given regarding individual legislative proposals and what actions the Commission has taken.

In addition, the Commission divided into the following categories:

1. Measures that the Commission has already conducted in its own authority (REACH).
2. Commission proposals that are associated, however, with action on the part of the EU legislator (Data Protection, Posting of Workers Directive, Product Safety, Public Procurement, Professional Qualifications Directive, Tachograph).
3. On-going or planned assessments by the Commission (scope: employment and waste).

Some of the crafts comments are echoed in the various scopes, for example

- Privacy Regulation

One of the SMEs concern is, that the proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation would contained too many detailed obligations for these personal data processing scopes. In this regard the Commission intends to work closely together with the Council and Parliament in order to maintain the exceptions in relation to the processing of personal data for SMEs.

- Tachograph Regulation

The listed SME concern is, that the obligation for a tachograph installation incur costs, and the compliance with the present regulation is associated with a high administrative burden. Vehicles that move not far from the company’s location, should be excluded from this requirement which stipulates the regulation.
Probably the final result will comply with the Commission's proposal. With the introduction of a mandatory "crafts people assumption" the Commission assumes that the EU-wide legal security is improved, without overloading the Member States with administrative burdens and complex regulations. The concerns of SMEs that were not included in the "Top 10", are going to be clarified in the scope of a bigger program, called REFIT program, in order to reduce regulatory burden. The Commission has announced, to report about the progress made in autumn.

Finally, the Commission calls for the fact, that the EU legislator (in acceptance) and the Member States (in the implementation and application) should ensure, that the EU regulations match the needs of SMEs.

President Barroso has announced the results of the notification at the European Council on 28th / 29th June 2013.

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**CEOPAN— the Spanish Confederation of Bakery Organisations**

CEOPAN, the Spanish Confederation of Bakery Organisations, was established in 1977, though some of its member Guilds have been working for more than 800 years.

80% of the 18,000 companies currently making bread and pastry products in Spain are members of CEOPAN, through any of its 52 Provincial or Local Associations/Guilds.

The Spanish Bakery sector employs more than 336,000 people. CEOPAN operates along five main fundamental strategic lines of activity:

1. Representing the interests of the Spanish Bakery Sector in front of the National Public Administrations and the European Union
2. Promoting the consumption of bread products and enhancing the good image of the profession
3. Training employers and employees in the Spanish Bakery Sector (there are 29 Bakery Schools in Spain, belonging to CEOPAN member Associations/Guilds)
4. Developing R&D&I
5. Providing services to its members

CEOPAN is a member of the Spanish Employers Organization (CEOE) and the Spanish SMEs Organization (CEPYME) and has very close contacts to the Ministries of Agriculture and Food; Health and Consumers Policy; Employment; Education; Industrial and Energy Policy and Economy.

It has promoted the constitution of INCERHPAN (the Food Interprofessional Organization of the cereals-flour-bread chain), formed by CEOPAN, the National Millers Association and the four main Farmers Unions existing in Spain, its main goal being to increase bread consumption, promoting quality from the beginning of the chain.

Through INCERHPAN, the Spanish Bread Scientific Committee was established in May 2006, its main objectives being to reverse the strong downward trend in the consumption of bread and to help improve the nutritional balance of the Spanish consumers. It has become the scientific reference to support and disseminate the nutritional virtues of bread and is composed of 6 top experts in health, science and nutrition from the University of Granada, the Complutense University of Madrid, the Mediterranean Diet Foundation, the Carlos III Institute and the Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology of the National Research Council. It has published the Bread White Book.

CEOPAN is an active member of CEBP and UIB.
**QBAKE: Training Project with EU Funds**

In the last few years, the Food Industry has experienced a dramatic increase in the implementations of new technologies and the use of new raw materials. Being the largest industry in the EU, it is vital for Food companies to improve their technological level in order to remain competitive and ensure the quality and safety of their products. These changes also imply that the companies must train their employees in the understanding and use of these new technologies.

QBAKE (Qualifications for the European Bakery Industry) is a Leonardo da Vinci Development of Innovation Project, funded by the EC through the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency). The main objective is to develop an appropriate training course for employees of the sector who otherwise will not have the opportunity of updating their knowledge and skills with respect to new Technologies implemented in the Bakery Industry. The Project will develop the course and validate it with a group of trainees, who will obtain the Europass certificate, acknowledging their new competencies.

The QBAKE project will be developed by a consortium of 10 partners from the UK, Spain, Greece and Romania, including: the UIB members CEOAN (Spain) and ROMPAN (Romania).

QBAKE officially started on 1st February 2012 and will finish by 31st January 2014.

More information at: [www.qbake.eu](http://www.qbake.eu)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Association</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Night of enjoyment</td>
<td>12th September 2013</td>
<td>In every province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEBP</td>
<td>Extraordinary General Assembly</td>
<td>14th September 2013</td>
<td>Granada, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>43. International Competition for Young Bakers</td>
<td>11th–14th November 2013</td>
<td>Odense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Univers Boulangerie</td>
<td>13th–14th October 2013</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>22nd–24th September 2013</td>
<td>Saarbrücken</td>
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