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Press release

EU vegetable oils' sector works towards meeting the 2020 commitments on sustainable palm oil

Brussels, 19 June 2016 - Since FEDIOL joined the commitment in Amsterdam at the end of 2015 to increase the up-take of sustainable palm oil and their fractions with a view to achieve a 100% by 2020, it carried out a monitoring of the volumes of sustainable palm oil that entered refining plants to benchmark progress. Today FEDIOL releases the latest figures for 2016.

At the end of 2016, 60% of the approximately 3.6 million tons of palm oil getting into European refining plants of FEDIOL companies participating in the survey, were certified sustainable. The increase has slowed down compared to previous years, in a context of an overall slight reduction of palm oil use by FEDIOL members.

The figures for palm kernel oil on the contrary show a continued increase of the up-take of certified sustainable volumes, which took more time to take up, but ultimately reached 52% at the end of 2016.

"It is difficult to push sustainable palm oil use through the supply chain with demand for such oil rather uneven across Europe and strong campaigning even against palm oil which prove counter-productive. The slowing down of the up-take shows that collective efforts have to be sustained if we want to live up to our objective of reaching 100% of sustainable palm oil used within the remaining three and a half years" said Henri Rieux, President of FEDIOL. "We are confident that palm kernel oil will catch up with the percentage share of sustainable palm oil and also continue increasing".

FEDIOL initiated in parallel a data collection on traceable palm oil, allowing to trace palm oil back to the mill and in certain cases even beyond to the farmer. These traceable volumes are not certified sustainable. They can be understood as a starting point to initiate the transition to enhanced sustainability in the palm oil supply chain. In 2016, the volumes of palm oil and palm kernel oil that were traceable reached 96%.

The monitoring leaflet can be found [here](#) on the FEDIOL web-site.



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Note to the editor

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oil and protein meal industry. With over 180 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 55 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets. Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and protein meals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses, protein meals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein.

The monitoring does not entail data on the sectors where the palm oil is used. However, FEDIOL estimates that a large majority of palm oil is intended for the food sector and non-food-technical applications. Smaller volumes of these oils refined by FEDIOL companies are reaching the non-food-energy market. According to Oil World 7,2 million tons of palm oil were imported into the EU last year, of which about 50% were refined by FEDIOL companies.

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