

EU-27 imports less palm oil

UFOP: prohibition on crediting biofuels is effective

Berlin, 31 July 2024 – EU member states imported significantly less palm oil in the marketing year 2023/24 than the previous year. The decline in imports was especially strong in the Netherlands, Spain and Germany.

In the period from July 2023 through the end of June 2024, the EU-27 imported just under 3.3 million tonnes of palm oil, representing a decline of around 773,000 tonnes or 19 per cent on the year before. The main importing country in the EU was Italy, receiving 1.2 million tonnes, which was up around 40 per cent on the 2022/23 season. It was followed by the Netherlands as second most important importer with 979,300 tonnes. However, the country's imports were 19 per cent short of the previous year's volume of 1.2 million tonnes. With regard to Dutch imports, it should be noted that ports such as Rotterdam or Amsterdam are central destinations for overseas imports and serve as ports of entry into the EU from where palm oil is shipped on to other EU member states. Also, the Netherlands is an important European location for the production of biofuels.

According to investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the decline in palm oil imports to Spain was more pronounced. At 484,800 tonnes, the country's imports were around 61 per cent smaller than in the 2022/23 reference period. Belgium received 93,800 tonnes, around 7 per cent less. Germany also imported significantly less palm oil from abroad. At 257,500 tonnes, the country obtained around 28 per cent less than in the previous marketing year.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen (UFOP) has welcomed the general decrease in palm oil imports. The association attributes this trend mainly to the decline in using palm oil as a feedstock in biodiesel fuel and hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) production. The reason for the decline is that since January 2023, palm oil-based biofuels can no longer be counted towards GHG quota requirements in Germany.

At present this prohibition on crediting is undermined by palm oil-based biodiesel imports from China that were presumably re-labelled as imports of biodiesel produced from waste oils. The palm oil-based biodiesel was previously imported from Indonesia at dumping prices. The UFOP therefore welcomes the progress in the EU Commission's proceedings to consider imposing import duties against Chinese producers and traders. Specifically, the EU Commission is planning to charge import duties ranging between 12.8 and 36.5 per cent based on the CIF price (cost, insurance, freight) free EU border. These duties will affect approximately 50 biodiesel producers and traders.



**Union zur Förderung
von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V.**

Herausgeber:

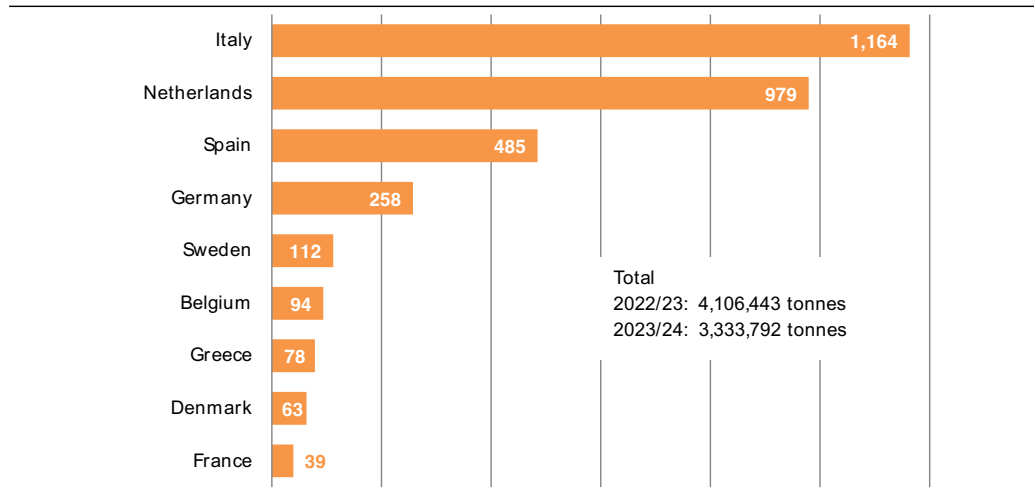
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Despite this provisional step by the EU Commission, the UFOP has urged that the root cause of this undesirable development be addressed to ensure fair competition by abolishing the double counting of biodiesel, HVO and CHVO (co-processed in the refinery) from waste oils in accordance with Part A of Annex IX of the Renewable Energies Directive. The association has highlighted that the problem was partly self-inflicted by the responsible authorities in the member states, as they approved the relevant waste categories.

EU imports of palm oil by major receiving countries

01.07.2023-30.06.2024, in 1,000 tonnes



Source: EU Commission

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Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants e. V. (UFOP) represents the political interests of companies, associations and institutions involved in the production, processing and marketing of domestic oil and protein plants in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new recycling opportunities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein plant end products.