



EUROPEAN CHILLED FOOD FEDERATION
FEDERATION EUROPEENE DES PLATS FRAIS REFRIGERES

<http://www.ecff.net>

12 April 2013

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Presidency and Secretariat was held by the Finnish Chilled Food Industries' Association (2011-2012). The Federation was founded 1991 and this was our 21th working period.

1. Meetings

Three meetings took place during 2012:

30 March	Annual Meeting	Köln
15 October	General Assembly	Barcelona
17 December	COOL group	Brussels

2. Conference calls

Three conference calls

11 January	future activities, web pages
20 June	next meeting
9 November	COOL questionnaire

3. Membership

ECFF has 10 member countries and 11 member associations in Europe. ECFF's membership currently comprises:

Belgium	Belgian Ready Meal Manufacturers' Association – BREMA
Finland	Finnish Chilled Food Industries' Association – ETL
France	Syndicat National des Fabricants de Produits Traiteurs Frais - SYNAFAP
Germany	Verband der Hersteller kulinarischer Lebensmittel e.V.
Italy	Associazione Nazionale Produttori Pasta Fresca – APPF and Associazione delle Industrie del Dolce e della Pasta Italiane - AIDEPI
Spain	Asociacion Espanola de Elaboradores de Platos Refrigerados
Switzerland	Swiss Convenience Food Association – SCFA
The Netherlands	Algemene Kokswaren en Snackproducenten Vereniging, AKSV
Sweden	Swedish Djupfrysningssbyrån
UK	Chilled Food Association – CFA

4. ECFF representation data

There are estimated to be 682 chilled food manufacturing companies in members' countries. Members' companies' total turnover is over 15 billion euros and there are nearly 100,000 employees in the sector.

Please note the table below.

Member Country	Number of companies in the sector	Sector turnover (EUR m)	Sector employees
Belgium	23	500	800
Finland	14	310	1800
France	110	2940	14000
Italy	28	900	2200
Netherlands	90	600	3000
Spain	375	490	9000
Switzerland	22	1500	4500
UK	20	8000	64000
TOTAL	682	15240	99300

26/04/2012

No chilled food volume statistics were shared in 2012.

5. 2012 ACTIVITIES

5.1 Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs

ECFF continued monitoring the developments of the EU dossier on microbiological criteria, in particular *Listeria monocytogenes* in relation to shelf life testing. ECFF does not agree with the temperature requirements in the EU Technical Guidance on Lm challenge testing. The only way forward for the industry is to present a complete and thorough review of fridge temperatures to justify an alternative approach.

5.2 Nutritional labeling and GDA

ECFF is monitoring developments. No actions.

5.3 Portion size position on ready meals and meal components

No actions on EU level.

5.4 Diet and health

Members shared developments on salt and fat reduction in their countries. On a national level low carbohydrate diets and foods became more popular especially in Nordic countries.

5.5 Other Regulatory Affairs

Developments in EU legislation relevant to the chilled food sector were monitored and reviewed, including:

- Regulation of food information to consumer and origin labelling requirements
- Country on origin labelling questionnaire was discussed as a major issue
- Contaminants (inc. nitrate in rucola)
- Lifecycle analysis: carbon footprinting: activities in different MS

5.6 Website ECFF: www.ecff.net

Minor updates were implemented by Kaarin Goodburn.

6. National Issues

National issues with potential to impact on the European chilled food industry as a whole were considered.

7. Codex

Observer status was granted to ECFF at the beginning of the year. Rapporteurs on Codex issues were Italy (labelling) and UK (hygiene). No actions in Codex Committees were taken during the year.