



A Year in
Review

2019



Helping the savoury snacks
industry succeed

Director General's insight

The European Snacks Association is ready for the new decade and the new political set-up in Brussels to better defend and represent its members interests.

With 2020 kicking off and a new European Commission and a new European Parliament in the starting blocks we have set our priorities right in terms of regulatory and reputational milestones.

We are excited to learn more about the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy as its flagship initiative for our sector. We look forward to working with the EU institutions to co-create an effective transition to sustainable food systems that requires solutions that go beyond 'business as usual'. It requires addressing and reviewing bravely the way food is produced, packed, transported and consumed.

We will look into topics like waste handling, energy use, recycling, packaging, and many more related issues that will exemplify that the entire value chain of the savoury snacks sector is one of the most responsible and sustainable one within the food and beverage industry.

We urge policymakers to drive a fit-for-purpose political framework based on factual evidence, economic realities, best practice and effective, inclusive solutions that ensure everyone in the value chain takes up their responsibility.

I am confident that we have at the ESA all the necessary elements to embrace the changes that are coming in the future and that we will make the best out of it.



Sebastian Emig
Director General*
European Snacks Association

*in his capacity as permanent representative of PrimeConsulting BXLBCN SL



Highlights of the year

Another eventful year for the European Snacks Association and the savoury snacks sector. This timeline looks back at last year's landmark moments.

April

France bans titanium dioxide

France notified a national ban on the placing on the market of all foodstuffs containing the permitted food additive titanium dioxide (TiO₂, E171) as of 1 January 2020.



June

SNACKEX in Barcelona!

Record number of exhibitors for the 18th edition of SNACKEX around the theme "Snackification - Grasping the Business Opportunities".



June

European Commission bans use of chlorpropham

Regulation (EU) 2019/989 confirmed the non-renewal of approval of the active substance chlorpropham. Use of the sprout suppressant will be banned on potatoes across Europe from 8 October 2020.



July

Share A Snack!

Successful 6th edition of our flagship event in front of the European Parliament.



September

ESA signs up to the EU Circular Plastics Alliance

ESA joined the Circular Plastics Alliance to help creating synergies to develop more sustainable packaging solutions in the future.



October

New ESA website goes live!

ESA revamped its website with a new design and visuals to emphasize the most relevant information for the general public and institutional stakeholders.



October

Snack Production Course

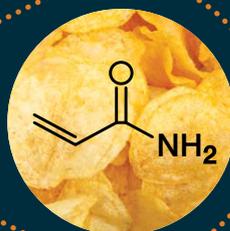
Part III "Snack Nuts - Origins to Packet" took place in Barcelona, Spain.



November

Member States to monitor acrylamide on a wide range of new products

The Commission published a new recommendation on the monitoring of the presence of acrylamide, targeting a number of products of relevance to the sector including vegetable crisps, cereal based snacks and roasted nuts.



December

New official controls regulation

The new Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 started to apply from 14 December, replacing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and other legislation previously governing import checks and other controls along the food chain.



December

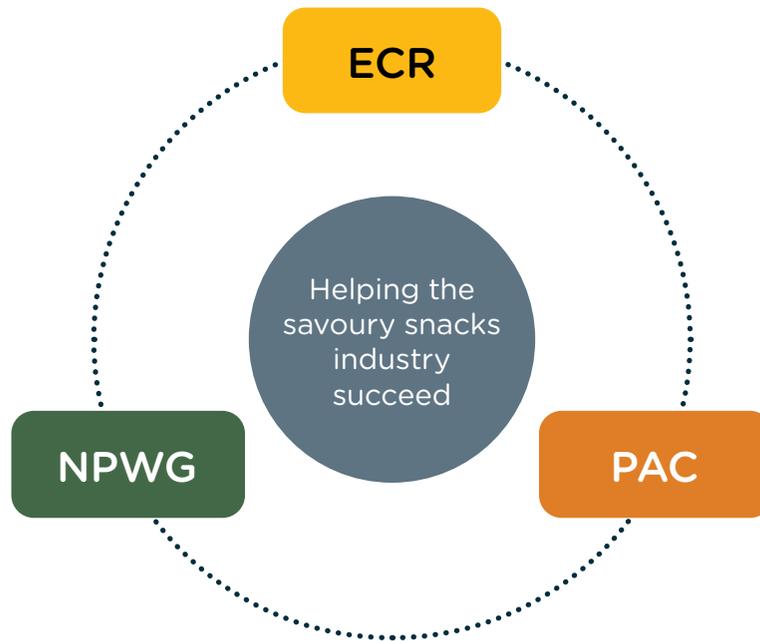
European Commission introduces the EU Green Deal

The "Farm to Fork Strategy for Sustainable Food" is announced as one of the cornerstones of the EU Green Deal, the flagship initiative of the new Commission.



Working groups in a nutshell

Our dedicated committees are at the forefront of the issues to keep members abreast of regulatory and legal developments.



ECR

EC Regulatory Working Group

The EC Regulatory WG mission is to protect and promote the interests of the sector, by providing technical expertise and input to the EU policy process and communicating positions to key decision-makers.

The loss of EU authorisation for the sprout suppressant chlorpropham represents a significant blow for long-term potato storage, with ESA working closely with partners across the potato sector to ensure that there is a suitable temporary maximum residue level in place from the beginning of 2021.

Discussions on acrylamide, MCPD-esters and furan continued, with new monitoring recommendations, potential maximum levels, mitigation tools and updated EU and industry guidance published in 2019.

In the absence of an official interpretation on the Implementing Regulation 775/2018 on the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient, the group proactively contributed to an industry guidance developed by FoodDrinkEurope, Primary Food Processors and Eurocommerce.

ESA contributed also to a number of targeted stakeholder consultations and call for data on various substances, ranging from tropane alkaloids and glycoalkaloids, to glutamates. The input provided helped shaping more realistic and feasible legislative approaches to unavoidable substances and irreplaceable additives.

NPWG

Nut Processors Working Group

The Nut Processors WG (NPWG) brings together professionals from across the global supply chain for snack nuts and plays a key role in addressing the sector's concerns and interests.

The new Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625, replacing Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, entailed a plethora of secondary legislation harmonising and modernising the previously existing rules, and introducing innovations such as the new Integrated Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC) and the Common Health Entry Document (CHED). The group followed closely and exchanged actively with European Commission officials on these developments to ensure a smooth adjustment to the new rules.

Aflatoxins continued to be high on the discussion agenda, with an elevated number of RASFF alerts, Commission Directorate F audits to origins, and a public consultation on the EFSA draft scientific opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of aflatoxins in food, to which the group contributed.

The group also provided space for sharing and exchanging on individual companies' research on quality and other initiatives.

PAC

Public Affairs & Communications Working Group

The main task of the Public Affairs and Communications WG is to shape the reputation of the industry as a responsible, credible and committed partner in the public and political debate.

The year was marked by important institutional changes in the political landscape with the election of a new European Parliament and the new von der Leyen Commission. Bearing this transition in mind, the PAC group was involved in improving and developing the association's communications tools (e.g. new website; animated video clips; brochure; etc.) in view of sharing our key messages with the newcomers in Brussels.

The group continued to closely monitor policy developments on plastic packaging, notably following the entry into force of the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive. PAC members also advised the ESA Board to sign up to the EU Circular Plastics Alliance, a platform created under the auspices of the European Commission and gathering the entire plastics value chain to boost the EU market for recycled plastics.

With the announcement of the EU Green Deal by the incoming European Commission and the Farm to Fork strategy, the group also started a reflection on sustainable food systems and the place of processed foods in an increasingly challenging policy and public environment.

Focus on events

A programme of capacity building activities which offer outreach, education, business opportunities and networking.

SNACKEX

At SNACKEX 2019 in Barcelona, attendees have taken part in the only exhibition that is dedicated to the savoury snacks sector.

For its 18th edition SNACKEX once more has successfully given all attendees the opportunity to reach snacks and snacks nuts producers and suppliers, under one roof.

SNACKEX again gathered leading decision makers coming from over 70 countries in a world-class venue and offered unrivalled opportunities to network in an environment that is conducive to business.

SNACKEX also featured its varied and very popular programme of key topic industry sessions as well as gave attendees the opportunity to share expertise via its prestigious Knowledge Centre, one of the main attractions of the show floor open to all visitors.

The next edition will be held in Hamburg on 16-17 June 2021.



Annual Garden Party of the APE

ESA participated for the third time at the Annual Garden Party organised by the European Parliamentary Association (APE).

In attendance of around 300 invitees, including numerous newly elected Members of the European Parliament, ESA had the opportunity to organise a much-welcomed tasting with a great variety of savoury snacks and share interesting information about our sector and our products.

Snack Production Courses

ESA's programme of snack and nut production education courses are designed to provide delegates with a thorough, well-rounded and interactive grounding on industry best practice and the latest applications of new technology delivered from acknowledged experts.



Share A Snack

For the 6th consecutive year, the ESA took over the Place Luxembourg in front of the European Parliament to raise awareness about the fantastic world of savoury snacks!

As every year, a happy and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a great variety of savoury snacks from all over Europe and had the chance to test its knowledge on the sector with a short interactive quiz which was taken more than 400 times during the evening!



Snack production courses are a great opportunity for all production and marketing-oriented personnel to meet, network, exchange good practices and to share their own experiences and challenges with peers and expert industry speakers. Practical elements are built into the modules, including visits to production and testing facilities and flavour creation workshops.

In October 2019, ESA gathered participants in Barcelona for a 3-days course focusing on snack nuts, working through all the steps, from origins to packaging.

Who we are

Europe's only trade organisation dedicated to advancing the savoury snacks industry on behalf of member snack manufacturers and suppliers.

Headquartered in Brussels, we are recognised as the voice of the industry before the European decision-makers, and other key stakeholders since 1961.

ESA has a broad international membership of manufacturers and companies supplying equipment, ingredients, and services to the industry. ESA's membership groups some 200 companies of all sizes in 40 countries, and ESA members represent approximately 80% of the branded European savoury snacks market.



200

Companies membership



40

Countries represented



80%

European branded savoury snacks market

Board of Directors

Almond Board of California
Intersnack Group
Kellogg Company
Kerry
Lorenz Snack-World
PepsiCo International
Rosenqvists Food Technologies
Unichips
Zweifel Pomy-Chips



ESA Secretariat

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Marta de la Cera	Regulatory & Scientific Affairs
Olivier Devaux	Public Affairs & Communications
Veronica Yakicioglu	Events & Membership

*in his capacity as permanent representative of PrimeConsulting BXLBCN SL

What we offer

A wide range of services and benefits for you and your business.



Advocacy support



Access to information



Networking opportunities



Education



Involvement in working groups



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