



Danube Soya for the Promotion
of European Soya Production

Press Release

„Slovakia signs Danube Soya Declaration“

Slovakia signs the Danube Soya Declaration on 17 January in Berlin. State Secretary Magdaléna Lacko-Bartošová met Matthias Krön at the Green Week, in order to commit to the Danube Soya objectives and work together on the development of regional value chains. With a medium-term potential of 130,000 tons of Soya, Slovakia is very important for a regional and GMO-free protein supply in Middle-Europe.

Danube Soya, Vienna, 12. February 2015

The Danube Soya Declaration has been signed by 14 countries and regions within the last 2 years. At the Green Week in Berlin this year, Magdaléna Lacko-Bartošová commits to a sustainable and regional protein supply in Europe: "The development of the soya cultivation in Slovakia is a opportunity for agriculture, to improve ecology, crop rotation and the added value in rural areas. This local processing creates jobs in rural areas. To increase the potential the economy should develop together with the consumer regional value chains. Our ministry will force this by networking activities."

"The industry already recognized the protein problem, measures have been taken and projects have been started. We are supported already by 170 members. It is necessary that politics are also getting active" says Matthias Krön, Chairman of the Association Danube Soya. "We are glad, that, with the signing of Slovakia, all neighboring countries of Austria supporting the Danube Soya Initiative.

Ministers of Agriculture and State Secretaries from 13 countries of the Danube Region have committed to the objectives of Danube Soya. Austria, Germany (Bavaria, Baden Württemberg), Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Republika Srpska/ Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Moldova welcome a European Protein Supply through Danube Soya. The Declaration is the basis of the cultivation program for the regions along the Danube. A guaranteed GMO-free Status, traceability, regional cultivation and sustainable production are the main quality criteria of Danube Soya.

As next step Mr. Krön and Magdalena Lacko-Bartošová have agreed on promoting the development of local soya processing and soya feeding of laying hens. To achieve this, an appointment with the members of the value chains for laying hens has been set in the near future.

Already Increase in Soya cultivation in Slovakia

Currently, 29.218 hectares of soya were cultivated in Slovakia – that's 59 % more than previous year. Compared to this the cultivation of oil seeds increased by 34,8 %, cereals by 12,4 % and vegetables only by 4,9 %."The soya cultivation area has recorded the strongest



growth and Slovakia will be soon one of the largest soya cultivation countries in Europe. In addition, there is some further development potential; up to 52.500 hectare could be cultivated. This is calculated by the maize acreage of more than 200.000 hectare, similar to Austria," knows Krön.

In the entire Danube Region 1.8 Mio hectare is fallow land. Thus an increase in cultivation land from 1 Mio hectares to about 5 Mio hectares can be expected.

Europe imports more than 23 Mio tons of soya meal and 12.5 Mio tons of soya beans from oversea. Because of this, a political commitment is essential for the success of the project in the Danube Region.

Danube Soya quantities are rising

At the end of 2014 already 50.000 tons were certified by Danube Soya. Due to the growing importance of GMO-free, regional and sustainable products the demand is increasing. Especially laying hens, chickens for fattening and pigs are fed with considerable amounts of soya: Austria alone requires 600,000 tons per year. REWE, SPAR and Hofer, members of the Danube Soya Association, sell more than 350 million eggs per year, labelled by Danube Soya. At the end of 2014 the companies Schirnhofner and Hütthaler changed parts of their production to Danube Soya. Also chickens for fattening of Coop in Switzerland are fed with Danube Soya soya beans. Supermarkets in Austria and Switzerland include Danube Soya products in their product range and contribute in promoting the European agriculture and reducing CO₂ emissions. When buying eggs, poultry or pork with the "fed with Danube Soya" label, consumers can be assured to buy a GMO-free and European product.

About Danube Soya:

Danube Soya is a non-profit, independent organization and represents Europe's most significant initiative in the agricultural sector. Danube Soya links civil society, politics and important businesses from all sections of the value added chain, ranging from GMO-free seed production to food of animal and vegetable origin. Danube Soya stands for GMO-free, origin-controlled quality soya from the Danube Region and incorporates about 150 members from all over Europe. The Danube Soya Association has made it's objective to improve the conditions for successful European protein cultivation and to minimize soya imports. The Danube Soya headquarters are located in Vienna; regional offices are currently set up in Novi Sad, Serbia and in Bucharest, Romania. Representatives are in Switzerland and Italy.

Further information on Danube Soya can be found on www.donausoja.org.

Questions:

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