



Donau Soja zur Förderung
der europäischen Sojaproduktion

Danube Soya Turned Four!

Danube Soya invited all 213 members from 19 countries to its fourth general assembly. The newly elected international executive board and committee will take the association into the future.

Press Release

Danube Soya welcomed over 70 people to its fourth general assembly. Representatives from the entire Danube Region were voted into the executive board and committee. Subsequently, around 100 people from all across Europe attended the Danube Soya B2B meeting and the afternoon conference on soya food products. As tradition will have it, the day-long event was again held at the Vienna Exchange for Agricultural Products.

Danube Soya Association, Vienna, May 4, 2016

The general assembly, held each year at the Vienna Exchange for Agricultural Products at the onset of spring, has become an established tradition within the Danube Soya network. The association first came into being four years ago, in April of 2012. Today the association has more than 210 members from 19 countries—primarily small and medium sized businesses. Company and organization representatives came together for the annual report, to learn about new Danube Soya developments, and future plans. These were presented by the Danube Soya team, which consists of 30 staff members, representatives, and external employees spread throughout the 8 Danube Region countries. Danube Soya successfully concluded the 2015 budget year with a slight surplus. Investments were made into activities pertaining to research, agriculture, marketing, and events. 191 companies, storage facilities, first processors, agricultural traders, and marketers are already Danube Soya certified. 85,000 tons of certified soya are currently in circulation, and we can count on an increase of at least 50% for 2016. Furthermore, the Danube Soya standard and its controlling system was developed and refined. It is the only standard in Europe to ban the usage of crop desiccants like glyphosate and diquat during the maturation process. Last but not least, Danube Soya's major causes—and now those of the Europe Soya Standard as well—were once again presented: The rigid implementation of freedom from genetic engineering, origin control through isotope samples, the ban on land use changes, and an equally rigid monitoring of

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pesticide guidelines.

Representatives from the Entire Daube Region Represent Danube Soya

Four years and two terms of office have passed, now Danube Soya executive committees have been reelected. The new twelve-member- executive board and fourteen-member-committee is now comprised of representatives from almost every Daube Region country and the three central groups of stakeholders: agricultural, agricultural trade and processing, and marketing of Danube Soya and Daube Soya labeled products. Our executive board is made up of—in addition to Daube Soya chairman and treasurer—representatives from the following companies: Raiffeisen Ware Austria, the animal feed company Fixkraft, the BAG oil mill Gassing, Fenaco Switzerland, Svarog Urkrane, ARGE Gentechnik-frei, the Raiffeisen feed mill Germany, the Association of Austrian Pig Farmers, as well as food retailers Spar and Hofer Austria. The committee includes representatives from the farming production community including Schwäbisch Hall Germany, Soja Italia, Cereal Docks Italy, UBM Agrofeed, the Magyar Szója nonprofit Kft Hungary, the Polish Association of Producers of Rapeseed and Protean Plants, the Austrian Agricultural Chamber, Euralis France, Bioland Markt Germany, REWE Austria, Fritz Mauthner Agricultural Trade Austria, the Bavarian Regional Office for Agriculture, "Sojarei" wholefoods Austria, the Victoria Group Serbia, and the Federation of the Austrian Poultry Industry. The committee is advised by a diverse international advisory board consisting of NGOs, organizations, and institutions such as the Federal Environmental Agency Vienna, the Future Foundation for Agriculture in Germany, ProTerra, the Ecosocial Forum, the Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and the environmental NGOs WWF Germany, Global 2000, and Greenpeace.

According to reelected chairman Matthias Kron, "the Association's mission is to represent its members in the best possible way. It was therefore absolutely necessary to elect more representatives from the Danube Region onto the committees. The goal of the new executive board and committee is to continue developing the association within the entire Danube Region and beyond, within the framework of the new 'Europe Soya' brand."

The Subsequent International B2B Meeting and Soya Conference brings Stakeholders from the Daube Region to Vienna

Danube Soya thereby opened its doors to an even wider audience: around 100 participants from Europe's agricultural sector including seed companies, laboratories, agricultural traders, processors, marketers, certification authorities, NGOs, and many more, made use of the Daube Soya network to maintain and locate new business partners, projects, and contacts. The B2B meeting "Meet Producers and Buyers for Danube Soya Beans and Products" was preceded by presentations by Serbia, Ukraine, and Moldavia. In the simultaneously held afternoon conference "Danube Soya Beyond the Feed Market", experts from the areas of soya lecithin, soya oils, soya foods, and soybean cultivation gave presentations on the market and production possibilities of soya, and the demands generated by agriculture and retail.

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One Step Closer to the Daube Soya's Goals

Daube Soya Association reports showed that significant milestones are already reached toward a European protein supply.

In its founding year, 3.8 million tons of European soybeans stood up against around 38 million tons of soya imports. Today cultivation is at nearly double that amount—6.5 million tons were harvested in Ukraine, Serbia, Moldavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Switzerland, and the EU. The project was able to further advance its goals with the cooperation and support of the Society for International Cooperation (GIY) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Over the past four years the project's program has been brought to life by our members, partners, and the eight Danube Soya regional offices.

Not only does the Danube Soya branding program fulfill consumers' the desire to promote regional agriculture, it also enables businesses to implement a simpler and safer quality control system. This is only possible thanks to our joint quality system—a system that offers both transparency and security.

About Danube Soya:

The Danube Soya Association is a non-profit independent association. It is Europe's most significant agricultural initiative. The Danube Soya Association unites civil society, politics, and important businesses from all areas of the value chain, ranging from GM-free seed production to animal and plant-based food products. Danube Soya stands for quality, source identified soya from the Danube Region, and is comprised of more than 210 members from across Europe. The mission of the Danube Soya Association is to improve conditions for the successful cultivation of soya in Europe, and to minimize soya imports. More information about Danube Soya can be found at the following link: www.donausoja.org.

For further questions:

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