



Donau Soja zur Förderung  
der europäischen Sojaproduktion

## **Danube Soya and Soia Italia signed a Memorandum of Understanding paving the way for a successful cooperation**

Press Release

**Danube Soya and Soia Italia signed today the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to define their collaboration concerning the promotion of soya bean cultivation and use in Italy. The main objective is to promote the cultivation and use of sustainable soya production in Europe, with focus on Italy and the use of common synergies to improve this performance.**

Danube Soya Association, Vienna, June 7, 2016

40 Million tons of soya (equivalent soya meal to soya bean) are imported to the European Union. At the same time, only 0.7 % of all agricultural land in Europe is cultivated with legumes. The potential is high, already 6.5 Million tons were produced in Europe (including the Ukraine) in 2015, 71 % more than in 2012. Due to policy measurements by the European Union, better market conditions as well as the promotion by Danube Soya and hence higher demand of European Soya, higher production could be reached. Incentives for farmers to cultivate soya with improved and professional tools, the willingness of processors to buy and process regional soya and the commitment by food producers and retailers to support regional agriculture is responsible for the success and promotion of regional soya. Only then the vision by Danube Soya, to supply Europe with 50 % of regional produced soya, can be realized by 2025.

As the biggest soya producer in the European Union, Italy has well trained farmers who already reach high yields. However, intensive research in soya breeding and cultivation practice, certification and the introduction of a hard IP system to guarantee safe and non-GM soya beans from Europe are necessary to boost the European cultivation of soya and the use of Italian soya in Italy.

Danube Soya and Soia Italia have therefore a common interest in cooperating on long-term strategies to reduce imported soya and helping to stabilise the

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European/Italian market. Both associations bringing together best prerequisites for working together on their common goal.

### **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 non-GM seed production to food of animal and vegetable origin. The Danube Soya headquarter is located in Vienna; regional offices are set up in Novi Sad, Serbia, in Bucharest, Romania, in Kiev, Ukraine. Representatives are in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Moldova and Poland.

### **Soia Italia**

Soia Italia is an Italian association to develop and spread the culture of soy in Italy, involving the whole value chain, scientists, policy makers and many others. The association is researching in three areas: 1) variety testing and research of US varieties; 2) agronomy to optimize protein production; 3) innovative processing to increase protein efficiency and quality. Current members are SIPCAM, Cortal extrasoy and a Roberto Bartolini, a journalist.

### **Cooperation**

The Memorandum of Understanding defines the agreement on membership, certification, division of responsibilities and tasks and the representations in boards and presidium in each organisation. A full time employee will support the common goal of collaborating in research in soya cultivation and best practice agricultural methods by agreeing on a common strategy.

With the aim to ensure the highest effort, the two associations will create the Soia Italia certification using a logo called 'Soia Italia' by efficient and cheap co-audits. All Soia Italia certified products automatically will also be marketable as Europe Soya. Therefore, a close collaboration in authorizing inspection bodies to inspect and certify potential partners of both associations is intended.

Common synergies are further used regarding the division of work, by Danube Soya taking care of quality management, improvement of the Standard and international market development and by Soia Italia working on quality and scientific issues.

The joint goal of a well known and well distributed use of the Soia Italia-Europe soya brand on Italian products is based on a common promotion strategy. This strategy is, among other things, pursued through jointly organized events in Italy for the publication of regional soya bean production and use.

Besides that, a scientific exchange between Italian researcher and breeders with the Danube Soya region and in Europe is at the very top of the agenda.

Based on all these measurements, the collaboration paves the way to broaden and further strengthen the associations' network and certified partners.



### **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](http://www.donausoja.org).

### For further questions:

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