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EU-27 TREE NUTS SEMI-ANNUAL

2009

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Report Highlights:

The EU-27 is a net importer of tree nuts with imports by volume exceeding exports by more than fifteen times. EU demand has been increasing over the years, while domestic production within the Member States generally has not risen at the same rate to meet demand. U.S. tree nut exporters have benefited from this shortfall, becoming the major supplier of nuts to the European market. In 2008, total EU imports of tree nuts were valued at US$ 3.5 billion - with U.S.-sourced tree nuts valued at US$ 1.4 billion.

Executive Summary:

Disclaimer: This report presents the situation and outlook for tree nuts (almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts and pistachios) in the EU-27. This report presents the views of the authors and does not reflect the official views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data are not official USDA data.

This report would not have been possible without the valuable expert contributions from the following Foreign Agricultural Service analysts:

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Abbreviations and definitions used in this report
Conversion factors: conversion factor is used to convert shelled to in-shell tree nuts.
Almonds: 3.3
Hazelnuts: 2.03
Walnuts: 3.3
Pistachios: 1.5

GTA Global Trade Atlas
Ha hectare; 1 ha = 2.471 acres

HS Codes: Harmonized System codes for commodity classification used to calculate trade data.
Almonds: Shelled 080212; In-shell 080211
Walnuts: Shelled 080232; In-shell 080231
Filberts/Hazelnuts: Shelled 080222; In-shell 080221
Pistachios: 080250

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg
MS EU member state(s)

MY Marketing year
Almonds: September/August
Walnuts: October/September
Hazelnuts: September/August
Pistachios: September/August

USD U.S. Dollar

Commodities:
Almonds, Shelled Basis

Production:
The EU is one of the world's leading producers and consumers of almonds. Spain holds the position as the second largest almond producer, accounting for about 11 percent of global production. The United States is by far the largest producer, contributing to approximately

80 percent of the total world almond supply. Other major EU almond producers are Italy and Greece.

In Spain, crop production for MY 2008/09 has been revised downwards to 52,636 MT, due to poor weather conditions in the main producing areas. Spanish almond orchards are concentrated in Mediterranean regions, namely Andalucía and Valencia. Other significant production areas include Murcia, Catalonia, Aragon, the Balearic Islands and Castilla-La Mancha. The dominant varieties are Marcona, Largueta, Planeta, Valencia (Comuna) and Mallorca.

In Italy, almond reported area is considered to be over-estimated. The sector is subject to continued uprooting of the oldest, least productive trees with minimal planting of new orchards. Consequently, Italian almond production in the medium term is expected to decline.

In Greece, farm and trade sources have revised almond output downward for both MY 2007/08 and 2008/09. For the MY 2009/10 crop, they forecast an output of about 12,000 MT -- ambitiously the same as for MY 2008 -- provided that weather conditions continue normal through the end of April 2009. Currently, the temperature differentiation between night and day in the almond producing regions of Thessaly and East Macedonia is 12-13° Celsius - which farmers consider dangerous. Nevertheless, all sources predict output at 12,000 MT with 10,000 MT being the worst case scenario if freezing temperatures prevail during the blossoming stage.

The quality of Greek almonds in 2008 was very good with the best originating from orchards along the coastline. The less marketable almonds were sourced from dry inland pockets. It is too early to predict 2009 crop quality. Cooler summers without heat extremes will improve the quality of both almonds and pistachios.

Almond trees in Cyprus grow in every type of soil but are more productive in deep, fertile, irrigated soils. Almonds also grow in infertile and dry areas which would otherwise not be planted. At present, almonds cover an area of 4,897 hectares. Due to the severe drought afflicting Cyprus over the past few years, almond production has declined -- along with Cypriot farm income. In MY 2007/08, almond production was 910 MT, while production in MY 2008 only reached 68 tons (shelled basis). The drought in Cyprus, now in its 4th consecutive year, has nearly devastated almond producers.

Table 1. Major EU Almond Producers by Volume in MT (Shelled Basis)

COUNTRY	MY 2007/08	MY 2008/09	MY 2009/10
Spain	61,667	52,636	60,000

Italy	12,000	12,000	13,000
Greece	10,000	12,000	12,000
Portugal	3,636	2,727	3,500

Consumption:
Traditionally, almonds are characterized by their good taste and high quality and are regarded as an ideal source of several natural health nutrients. Consumption patterns depend on key factors such as dietary habits, income levels and tradition. Some EU countries, such as Greece, Spain and Italy, are amongst the countries with the highest levels of per capita consumption of tree nuts in the world. Tree nut imports are indispensable for EU consumers.

U.S. almond imports are utilized in a variety of ways -- for direct consumption; for processing into added-value nuts; as food ingredients such as almond flour, diced or sliced; and for processing in the confectionary industry.

Consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual. Nevertheless, they may, in fact, help us to understand consumption trends. Consumption is expected to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 from the previous year's level due in large part to the general economic downturn and the accompanying decline in consumption.

In Greece, the EU country with the highest per capita consumption of tree nuts, consumers have recently complained about the extremely high nut prices and have begun to reduce overall tree nut purchases. Despite the price increases, domestic consumption of almonds is only slightly reduced in Greece following the significant price hike since 2007. Greeks still consume large quantities of nuts as a snack and, to a lesser extent, as an ingredient for confectionary products.

Trade:

Imports

In MY 2007/08, some 65 percent of total EU-27 almond imports originated in the United States, making the U.S. the number one almond supplier by far, mainly exporting shelled or peeled almonds. U.S. almonds face competition from locally grown almonds, particularly from Spain, which is the world's second almond producer. Imports from Turkey are mainly for processing.

Almond imports into the EU are forecast to slightly decline in MY 2008/09 due to lower domestic consumption related to the general economic crisis.

The major EU-27 importers of almonds by volume are Germany, Spain, Italy and France.

Table 2. EU-27 Imports of Almonds by Origin in MT (Shelled Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	152,987	167,306	185,483
Australia	1,178	2,170	5,928
Chile	2,351	1,020	1,770
Syria	537	1,290	1,182

Morocco	1,348	1,445	1,031
Canada	1,178	272	421
Others	1,274	1,598	1,374
TOTAL IMPORTS	**160,853**	**175,101**	**197,189**

Source: GTA

Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 almonds are Switzerland, Ceuta (an Autonomous City of Spain in North Africa) and the U.S. The largest almond exporter is Spain, followed far behind by Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Most of Spain's exports are destined for other EU members.

Table 3. EU-27 Exports of Almonds by Destination in MT (Shelled Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Switzerland	1,526	1,629	1,888
Ceuta	263	682	1,752
United States	1,396	1,511	1,358
Algeria	411	276	418
Japan	281	367	370
Lebanon	99	171	293
Others	2,005	2,472	2,659
TOTAL EXPORTS	**5,981**	**7,108**	**8,738**

Source: GTA

Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics:

Almonds, Shelled Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009			
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007			Market Year Begin: Sep 2008			Market Year Begin: Sep 2009			
	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	
Area Planted	738,132	738,132	742,663	719,930	719,930	742,114	0	0	741,797	(HA)
Area Harvested	639,085	639,085	711,051	637,000	637,000	710,416	0	0	710,022	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	45,000	45,000	45,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	0	0	35,000	(MT)
Production	83,666	83,666	88,508	89,100	89,090	79,829	0	0	88,950	(MT)
Imports	185,000	185,000	197,189	195,000	195,000	190,000	0	0	190,000	(MT)
Total Supply	**313,666**	**313,666**	**330,697**	**319,100**	**319,090**	**304,829**	**0**	**0**	**313,950**	(MT)
Exports	7,000	7,000	8,738	7,500	7,500	8,000	0	0	8,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	271,666	271,666	286,959	266,600	266,590	261,829	0	0	270,950	(MT)
Ending Stocks	35,000	35,000	35,000	45,000	45,000	35,000	0	0	35,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	**313,666**	**313,666**	**330,697**	**319,100**	**319,090**	**304,829**	**0**	**0**	**313,950**	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Commodities:
Walnuts, Inshell Basis

Production:

France is the largest EU producer and a net exporter of walnuts. For MY 2008/09, the walnut harvest production figure for France has been revised upward due to a higher than expected increase in orchard area planted. The French walnut industry expects production will continue to increase in 2009, mainly due to expanding area.

Italy expects a good crop for the current MY 2008/09 -- reaching 20,000 MT.

In Spain, the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) has not yet published official walnut production data. However, production is gradually increasing as walnut orchards modernize and produce larger fruit. As a result, it is expected that Spain's walnut production will exceed 11,000 MT this year.

Table 4. Major EU Walnut Producers in MT (In-shell Basis)

COUNTRY	MY 2007/08	MY 2008/09	MY 2009/10
France	34,230	35,000	35,300
Italy	14,000	20,000	15,000
Spain	11,000	12,000	12,000

Consumption:

While consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual, we expect consumption to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 over the prior year due to the general economic downturn and decline in overall consumption.

Among the most favored walnut varieties in the European market are Hartley, Eureka, Franquette, Vina and Chandler. Walnut consumption in the EU falls into several categories: as a snack food; an ingredient in home cooking; by-products for further processing; and as ingredients in the pastry and bakery industries.

Trade:

Imports

The wide gap between EU walnut production and imports provides an excellent opportunity for walnut exporters. The United States is the number one supplier of walnuts, both in-shell and shelled.

The EU imports various types of nuts for direct consumption as well as for further processing and re-export within the region in such forms as salted, baked, fried and mixed nuts.

Table 5. EU-27 Imports of Walnuts by Origin in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	84,949	80,156	83,319
Chile	11,772	15,790	26,213
Ukraine	28,877	6,485	21,877
Moldova	24,250	23,185	20,562
China	16,184	14,044	18,862
India	12,726	22,194	17,377
Others	4,932	6,109	3,698
TOTAL IMPORTS	**183,690**	**167,963**	**191,908**

Source: GTA

Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 walnuts are Turkey, Moldova and Switzerland. The largest walnut exporters are France, Germany and Italy.

Table 6. EU-27 Exports of Walnuts by Destination in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Turkey	7,159	11,111	3,954
Moldova	3,981	5,419	2,655
Switzerland	2,971	2,692	2,372
Syria	1,587	3,181	1,708
Croatia	1,875	2,020	1,320
Albania	639	892	1,118
Others	4,377	7,535	4,810
TOTAL EXPORTS	**22,589**	**32,850**	**17,937**

Source: GTA

Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics:

Walnuts, In-shell Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009			
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			
	Market Year Begin: Oct 2007			Market Year Begin: Oct 2008			Market Year Begin: Oct 2009			
	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	
Area Planted	22,970	22,970	32,165	22,870	22,870	31,930	0	0	31,930	(HA)
Area Harvested	21,970	21,970	30,165	21,970	21,970	29,930	0	0	29,930	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	40,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	(MT)
Production	44,230	44,230	60,630	44,500	44,500	70,870	0	0	66,200	(MT)
Imports	170,000	170,000	191,908	180,000	180,000	170,000	0	0	180,000	(MT)
Total Supply	**254,230**	**254,230**	**292,538**	**254,500**	**254,500**	**270,870**	**0**	**0**	**276,200**	(MT)
Exports	20,000	20,000	17,937	22,000	22,000	20,000	0	0	20,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	204,230	204,230	244,601	202,500	202,500	220,870	0	0	226,200	(MT)
Ending Stocks	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	30,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	**254,230**	**254,230**	**292,538**	**254,500**	**254,500**	**270,870**	**0**	**0**	**276,200**	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Commodities:

Filberts, Inshell Basis

Production:

In the text below, we will refer to filberts as hazelnuts, the term most commonly used in international marketing.

Italy is the world's second largest hazelnut producer, following Turkey, and the main EU producer. Crop production in Italy for MY 2008/09 has been revised downwards due to excessively high temperatures reported in late August and September.

Spain also produces a significant quantity of hazelnuts. MY 2008/09 has seen an increase in output of about one-third resulting in an upward revision to 24,000 MT.

Table 7. Main EU Hazelnut Producers in MT (In-shell Basis)

COUNTRY	MY 2007/08	MY 2008/09	MY 2009/10
Italy	110,000	125,000	110,000
Spain	18,000	24,000	24,000

Consumption:

Domestic EU hazelnut production supplies less than 40 percent of local demand for snack and industrial purposes. Domestic demand is met by imports -- mainly from Turkey.

While consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual, they indicate that consumption is expected to be slightly reduced in MY 2008/09 – as expected throughout the sector due to the general economic downturn and decline in consumption throughout the EU countries.

Trade:

Imports

The United States is the main supplier of in-shell hazelnuts to the EU. However, when total imports are converted to an in-shell basis, the United States falls to fourth position in MY 2007/08, after Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Shelled hazelnuts are imported mainly from Turkey, the world's dominant producer. Italy is the second world producer and exports mainly to other EU Member States.

Table 8. EU-27 Imports of Hazelnuts by Origin in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Turkey	176,112	193,428	166,542
Georgia	16,305	22,306	14,543
Azerbaijan	19,876	3,721	9,228
United States	4,220	4,237	3,571
Chile	895	955	1,772
China	489	621	262
Others	629	4,899	3,609
TOTAL IMPORTS	**218,526**	**230,167**	**199,527**

Source: GTA

Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 hazelnuts are Switzerland, Norway and Turkey. The major EU hazelnut exporters are Italy, Germany and Spain.

Table 9. EU-27 Exports of Hazelnuts by Destination in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Switzerland	4,000	4,448	6,480
Norway	1,042	1,195	1,263
Turkey	439	554	1,005
Canada	28	573	938
Serbia	12	520	891
Venezuela	53	83	802
Others	1,540	2,759	3,294
TOTAL EXPORTS	**7,114**	**10,132**	**14,673**

Source: GTA

Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics:

Filberts, In-shell Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009			
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007			Market Year Begin: Sep 2008			Market Year Begin: Sep 2009			
	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	
Area Planted	89,800	0	92,251	90,000	0	88,281	0	0	87,937	(HA)
Area Harvested	88,300	0	90,217	88,500	0	85,677	0	0	85,487	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	50,000	0	50,000	35,000	0	40,000	0	0	30,000	(MT)
Production	98,000	0	128,000	158,500	0	149,000	0	0	134,000	(MT)
Imports	250,000	0	199,527	240,000	0	200,000	0	0	200,000	(MT)
Total Supply	**398,000**	**0**	**377,527**	**433,500**	**0**	**389,000**	**0**	**0**	**364,000**	(MT)
Exports	10,000	0	14,673	10,000	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	353,000	0	322,854	383,500	0	344,000	0	0	319,000	(MT)
Ending Stocks	35,000	0	40,000	40,000	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	**398,000**	**0**	**377,527**	**433,500**	**0**	**389,000**	**0**	**0**	**364,000**	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Commodities:
Pistachios, Inshell Basis

Production:
The major EU pistachio producers are Greece and Italy. In Greece, all sources agree on MY 2009/10 output of 9,500 MT – as compared to last year's high quality crop of 9,000 MT. Production could rise even higher if normal weather and wildfire conditions prevail.

Production in Italy follows the "on" and "off" year cycle. Pistachios are grown on the slopes of Mount Etna in Sicily. Growers follow a very old tradition of drastically trimming trees every other year in order to obtain a larger crop in the following year. Sicilian pistachios have a green color which is more appealing for the confectionary and ice cream industries.

Consumption:
Domestic EU pistachio production supplies less than ten percent of local demand for both snack and industrial use. Domestic demand is met through imports sourced mainly from the United States and Iran.

Consumption estimates in the supply and demand table are residual and indicate a slight decline in MY 2008/09. As with the entire sector, this can be attributed to the general economic downturn and drop in EU consumption.

Trade:

Imports

The EU is a net importer of pistachios due to very limited EU production. The main suppliers for the European market are the United States and Iran who together account for nearly 100 percent of import market share. Most pistachios imported into the EU are in-shell and are utilized in both the snack and confectionary sectors.

Table 10. EU-27 Imports of Pistachios by Origin in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
United States	37,140	42,262	51,779
Iran	32,560	33,517	29,599
Turkey	403	889	774
Afghanistan	-	600	420
Syria	24	207	268
China	358	973	131
Others	305	348	141
TOTAL IMPORTS	**70,790**	**78,796**	**83,112**

Source: GTA

Exports

The top destinations for EU-27 pistachios are Melilla (an Autonomous City of Spain in North Africa), Switzerland, Serbia and Russia. The major EU pistachio exporters are Greece, Italy and Spain.

Table 11. EU-27 Exports of Pistachios by Destination in MT (In-shell Basis)

Country of origin	MY 2005/06	MY 2006/07	MY 2007/08
Melilla	201	363	332
Switzerland	222	218	257
Serbia	3	87	201
Russia	128	222	171
Ceuta	45	107	122
Iran	98	174	101
Others	473	715	720
TOTAL EXPORTS	**1,170**	**1,886**	**1,904**

Source: GTA

Production, Supply and Demand Data Statistics:

Pistachios, In-shell Basis EU-27	2007			2008			2009			
	2007/2008			2008/2009			2009/2010			
	Market Year Begin: Sep 2007			Market Year Begin: Sep 2008			Market Year Begin: Sep 2009			
	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	Annual Data Displayed		New Post Data	
Area Planted	8,372	8,372	8,793	8,352	8,352	8,722	0	0	8,722	(HA)
Area Harvested	8,372	8,372	8,771	8,352	8,352	8,672	0	0	8,672	(HA)
Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Non-Bearing Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Total Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 TREES)
Beginning Stocks	15,000	15,000	15,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0	14,000	(MT)
Production	13,000	13,000	13,000	9,200	9,200	9,200	0	0	13,500	(MT)
Imports	118,000	118,000	83,112	125,000	125,000	85,000	0	0	85,000	(MT)
Total Supply	**146,000**	**146,000**	**111,112**	**148,200**	**148,200**	**108,200**	**0**	**0**	**112,500**	(MT)
Exports	2,000	2,000	1,904	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0	2,000	(MT)
Domestic Consumption	130,000	130,000	95,208	132,200	132,200	92,200	0	0	96,500	(MT)
Ending Stocks	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0	14,000	(MT)
Total Distribution	**146,000**	**146,000**	**111,112**	**148,200**	**148,200**	**108,200**	**0**	**0**	**112,500**	(MT)

Source: FAS Europe Offices

Commodities:
Select
Almonds, Shelled Basis
Walnuts, Inshell Basis
Filberts, Inshell Basis
Pistachios, Inshell Basis

Policy:

European Commission (EC) Regulation EC/73/2009 (which repealed EC/1782/2003) establishes the common rules for direct support schemes under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Section 4, Articles 82 to 86, "Area payment for nuts," defines the general payment structure for CAP assistance to the tree nut sector.

Under this Regulation, EC aid will be granted for 2009-2011 to farmers who produce almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pistachios or locust beans and meet the conditions for eligibility outlined in Article 85. Tree nut producers are eligible for EC aid based on the guaranteed maximum area allocated to each Member State (see Table 12 below) which is defined as their national guaranteed area (NGA).

The Community area payment is granted within the limit calculated by multiplying the number of NGA hectares by the average amount of € 120.75. If the actual area exceeds the NGA, the amount of aid is reduced proportionately. Community aid is only granted if farmers comply with a minimum plot size and tree density.

In theory, the maximum level of aid for all tree nut producers is € 241.50 per hectare: the € 120.75 per hectare Community payment and the matching maximum payment provided by the individual Member State's national government. However, in practice Member States can reapportion the area payments by "sub-base areas" amongst the different types of nuts. For example, the MY 2008/2009 maximum payment for hazelnuts in Spain is € 264.89 per hectare, which results in a reduced maximum payment for all other nuts of € 159.89.

Table 12. EU-27 National Guaranteed Area and Financial Ceiling.

Member state	NGA (Ha)	Financial Ceiling (Euro)
Belgium	100	12,075
Germany	1,500	181,125
France	17,300	2,088,975
Greece	41,100	4,962,825
Italy	130,100	15,709,575
Luxembourg	100	12,075
Netherlands	100	12,075
Austria	100	12,075
Portugal	41,300	4,986,975
Spain	568,200	68,610,150
United kingdom	100	12,075
Bulgaria*	11,984	1,447,068
Cyprus*	5,100	615,825
Hungary*	2,900	350,175
Poland*	4,200	507,150
Romania*	1,645	198,634
Slovenia*	300	36,225
Slovakia*	3,100	374,325
Total EU-27	829,229	100,129,402

*These countries had no NGA in Regulation (EC) 1782/2003. For some, the financial ceiling will vary from 2010 to 2013 as shown in Table 13 below.

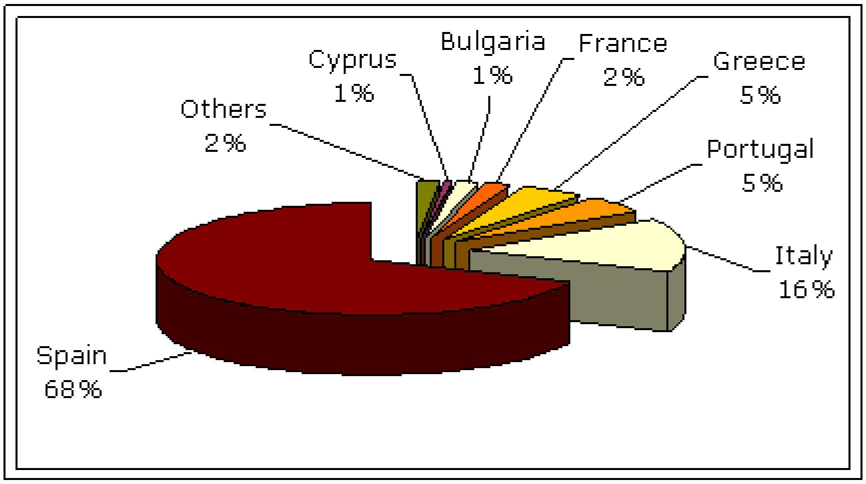
Table 13. Increase in Tree Nuts Financial Ceiling for New Member States

MS/Year	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bulgaria	1,447	1,302	1,158	1,013
Cyprus	616	616	616	616
Hungary	350	350	350	350
Poland	507	507	507	507
Romania	199	179	159	139
Slovenia	36	36	36	36

Slovakia	374	374	374	374

Source: European Commission (EC) Regulation EC/73/2009

Chart 1. Distribution of Total EC Tree Nut Aid in 2009



Special Measures for Aflatoxin Testing of U.S. Almonds: EC Decision 2007/563/EC establishes special conditions for almonds and derived products originating in or consigned from the United States of America due to contamination risks of these products by aflatoxins.

The new regime applies to almonds in-shell or shelled, roasted almonds and mixtures of nuts or dried fruits containing almonds, and foodstuffs containing a significant amount (at least 10 percent) of almonds. MS's are required to test approximately five percent of almond consignments that have been inspected under the California voluntary aflatoxin sampling program (VASP). For those shipments that do not carry a VASP certificate, MS's are required to test all shipments.

The EU aflatoxin legislation has been under discussion since the adoption in July 2008 by the Codex Alimentarius Commission of maximum aflatoxin levels for almonds, hazelnuts and pistachios and an associated sampling plan. Specifically, Codex adopted the following standards:

Ready-to-eat: 10ppb total aflatoxin, based on 2x10 kg samples
For further processing: 15ppb total aflatoxin, based on a single 20 kg sample

The EU is expected to align its legislation with the Codex standards, but is simultaneously discussing adjustment of the B1 aflatoxin level for various tree nuts.

Follow the link below for special EC and Member State reports regarding these measures:
http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/contaminants.html

Author Defined:

Related Reports

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E48103	EU-27 Tree Nuts Annual	12/24/2008
E48030	EU-27 Tree Nuts Annual	04/08/2008
GM8007	VASP Situation in Germany	01/31/2008
SP7009	Tree Nuts Annual	09/27/2007
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/attacherep/default.asp		