



November 12, 2024

ABC Has Full Schedule of EU Meetings

GTRA staff Gabriele Ludwig, Elena Hemler, and Abhi Kulkarni recently attended the annual Frucom meeting in Brussels, Belgium. This meeting always provides an opportunity to meet key stakeholders – European trade, Commission staff and other associations – for discussions concerning current and future regulatory and trade issues that might impact the almond industry.

While in Europe, Abhi Kulkarni met with the staff of NZV, the Dutch Nuts and Dried Fruit Association, regarding questions pertaining to almond quality and recent difficulties in moving shipments from Spain to the Netherlands for reprocessing.

The trip also provided an opportunity to meet with USDA/FAS staff in Rome, as well as staff at the Italian Ministry of Health. Following last year's multiple shipment rejections for mold, the Italian meetings provided an opportunity to re-establish the positive relationship between ABC and the Ministry. The robustness of the Pre-Export Check (PEC) program, PEC webinars and industry training, along with handler audits performed each year were discussed in some detail, building confidence in the PEC program. Abhi also highlighted the collaborative relationship between the California almond industry and the Italian nut processing sector, which counts on the reliable supply of California almonds for its value-added processing.

Contact Abhi at akulkarni@almondboard.com with any questions.

Post-US Election Update

While the election was held on November 5, votes are still being counted, including many yet to be counted across California's Central Valley.

Republicans won a number of election races, most notably at the top of the ticket where Former President Donald J. Trump is set to re-take the office.

Additionally, Republicans appear poised to gain control of the Senate by at least a 2-vote majority. While control of the House of Representatives has yet to be determined, as of the time of writing, it appears that whichever party gains control will do so by a thin margin. Republicans currently have 213 seats called in their favor while Democrats have 202 races decided in their favor. 218 seats are required to hold the majority in the House.

Among the races which have not yet been called are a number of Central Valley representatives including:

- CA-09 currently held by Rep. Josh Harder (D)
- CA-13 currently held by Rep. John Duarte (R)
- CA-22 currently held by Rep. David Valadao (R)
- CA-21 currently held by Rep. Jim Costa (D)

All of the incumbents in those races currently hold a lead with anywhere between 51%-57% of the votes counted.

Lawmakers from both House and Senate are expected to be sworn in on January 3, 2025. It is anticipated that President-Elect Trump's transition team will also be moving quickly to identify and appoint cabinet positions and key advisors.

For more information or questions please contact Brock Densel at bdensel@almondboard.com.

EU Country of Origin Labeling Comes into Force in January 2025

Starting January 1, 2025, the European Union will mandate the indication of the country of origin on the labels of vegetables, fruits, and nuts, including cut fresh produce. This obligation will be for point-of-sale retail packing and online sales to consumers.

For products such as California almonds, which are typically shipped in bulk, the country of origin information can be provided in accompanying shipment documents, or clearly affixed in the shipping containers. Typically, most bulk cartons of

California almonds already include the country of origin information.

USDA Ag Trade Mission to Morocco in December

ABC staff and several industry members are participating in the USDA Agricultural Trade Mission (ATM) which will be held December 2-6. Based primarily in Casablanca, the ATM includes State Departments of Ag, trade/industry associations and U.S. companies. Visits will include the leading bakery institute and milling school, USDA/FAS briefings, and key importer meetings. Comments on the trip will be included during the North Africa panel session during the Almond Conference (see below).

GTRA Sessions at the Almond Conference

The annual Almond Conference in Sacramento will be held from December 10-12 this year. Sessions hosted by the Global Technical/Regulatory Affairs (GTRA) team will include a panel on North Africa market opportunities, featuring results from a recent market assessment covering Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. Industry members will provide insights from a recent ATM to Morocco.

Another session will focus on the potential new trade agenda under a new administration, with comments from a former U.S. Trade Representative staff. GTRA staff will also participate in two technical sessions dealing with consignment rejections/goods return process, and the other on post-harvest pest management.

- **North Africa: New Market Opportunities**

Tuesday, Dec 10, 10:30 – 11:45 am

Moderator: Julie Adams

Speakers: Brad Rose (Rose Research), Handler

- **New Administration, New Trade Agenda?**

Tuesday, Dec 10, 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Moderator: Keith Schneller

Speakers: Sharon Bomer-Lauritsen (Former USTR)

- **Dealing with Rejections & Goods Returned**

Wednesday, Dec 11 at 10:30 – 11:45 am

Moderator: Tim Birmingham

Speakers: Tim Birmingham, Abhi Kulkarni, and a Handler (TBC)

- **Post Harvest Pest Management**

Wednesday, Dec 11 at 2:45 – 4 pm

Moderator: Gabriele Ludwig

Speakers: Dr. Pan (UC Davis), Spencer Walse (USDA-ARS), Abhi Kulkarni

UC Davis Report on Further Trade War Impacts on California Agriculture

A recent [study](#) published by UC Davis estimates that a renewed trade war between the United States and China and other nations could result in annual losses of \$6 billion for California agricultural exporters. The report states, *“As protectionist policies gain momentum in the United States, the future of California’s agricultural trade faces pessimism. With proposals to expand tariffs on imports from China and other nations, California farmers—who depend on global markets as an outlet for their almonds, wine, and other agricultural goods—are aware that there would be trade retaliation from our trading partners. If a significant new trade war develops, California could see a quarter of its agricultural exports wiped out, costing the state’s economy \$6 billion annually.”*

The study analyzes three different scenarios based on various types of actions and responses. In the worst-case scenario, the report estimates *“total export losses climbing by 25%. Pistachio exports alone could suffer annual losses of up to \$1 billion, while the combined damage to tree nuts could reach \$1.8 billion.”*

Upcoming Events

Nov 19-21 USAEDC Fall Meetings Baltimore

Dec 2-6 USDA Ag Trade Mission to Morocco

Dec 10-12 Almond Conference in Sacramento

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