

# EU-27 imported less palm oil

**Berlin, 19 July 2023 – EU member states imported significantly less palm oil in the marketing year 2022/23 than the previous year. The decline in imports was especially strong in the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium.**

In the period from July 2022 through the end of June 2023, the EU-27 imported just under 4 million tonnes of palm oil. This was around 934,000 tonnes or 19 per cent less than the year before. The main importing country in the EU was Spain, receiving 1.2 million tonnes, which was up around 4 per cent on the 2021/22 marketing season. It was followed by the Netherlands as second most important importer with 1.2 million tonnes. However, the country's imports were just less than 19 per cent short of the previous year's volume of 1.4 million tonnes. With regard to Dutch imports, it should be noted that ports such as Rotterdam or Amsterdam are central destinations for overseas imports and serve as ports of entry into the EU from where palm oil is shipped on to other EU member states. Also, the Netherlands is an important European location for the production of biofuels.

According to investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the decline in palm oil imports to Italy was more pronounced. At 803,000 tonnes, the country's imports were around 38 per cent smaller than in the 2021/22 reference period. The slump in Belgian palm oil imports was even sharper, with imports falling 42 per cent to 100,000 tonnes. By contrast, Germany imported significantly more palm oil from abroad. At 359,000 tonnes, imports were up just less than one fourth in 2022/23 compared to the previous crop year.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen (UFOP) has welcomed the general decrease in palm oil imports. The association attributes this trend mainly to the decline in using palm oil as a feedstock in biodiesel fuel and hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) production. However, it is critical of the fact that in the same period imports of questionable biofuels from China to the EU saw a massive increase. Such biofuels were declared to be so-called advanced biofuels, but there were strong doubts about the correctness of the certifications and required proofs of raw material origin.

EU member states are all required to phase out the crediting of biofuels from palm oil towards national blending mandates or greenhouse gas reduction quotas no later than 2030. In Germany, such crediting has already been disallowed since January 2023; imports for the purpose of processing for export are still possible. Alongside Germany, there are other member states that have also already excluded crediting of palm oil-based biofuels, including France, Italy, Austria, Belgium and Sweden.



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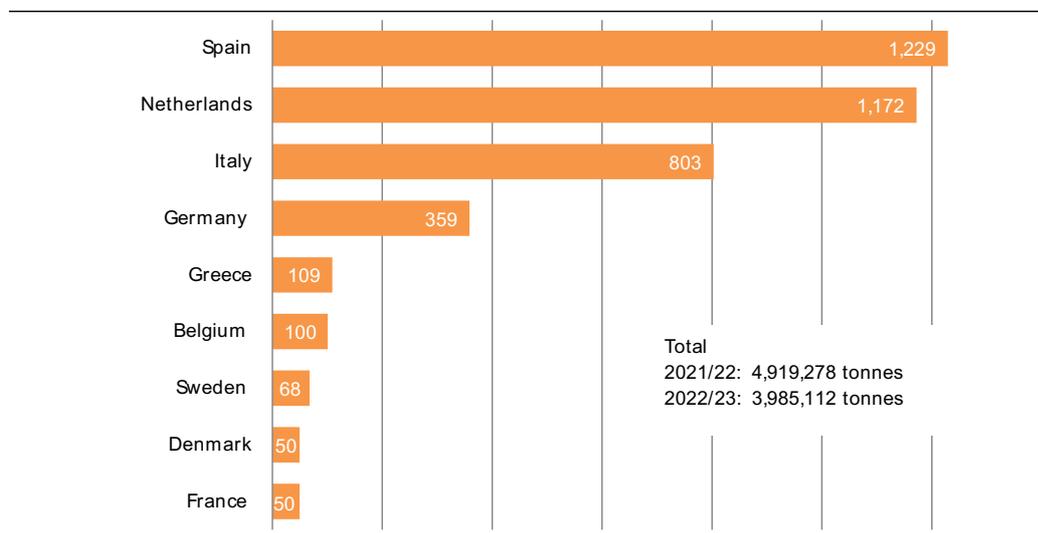
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The UFOP expects that in the future the domestic "oil source" rapeseed oil will gain importance as an "iLUC free" feedstock alternative, because rapeseed is grown in crop rotations in traditional agricultural regions. According to the outcome of the triologue negotiations to amend the Renewable Energy Directive (Red III), the EU Commission has to present a report no later than 1 September 2023, which report is to investigate whether soybean oil should also be classified as "iLUC feedstock".

### EU imports of palm oil by major destinations

01.07.2022-30.06.2023, in 1,000 tonnes



Source: EU Commission

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Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants e. V. (UFOP) represents the political interests of companies, associations and institutions involved in the production, processing and marketing of domestic oil and protein plants in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new recycling opportunities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein plant end products.