



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 10/1/2003

**GAIN Report Number:** E23187

## European Union

### Market Development Reports

### EUREPGAP Update

### 2003

**Approved by:**

Norval Francis  
U.S. Mission to the European Union, Brussels

**Prepared by:**

Christine Strossman

---

**Report Highlights:**

At a EUREPGAP global conference in September, certain European retailers said that they will request EUREPGAP certification from their suppliers of fresh fruits and vegetables starting on January 1, 2004. A new EUREPGAP protocol for fresh produce was also unveiled.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E2]

EUREPGAP is a pre-farm gate good agricultural practices certification program established by European retailers in 1997. The EHI-EuroHandelsinstitut e.V., a non-profit private research and education institute in Cologne, Germany, acted as international secretariat in the construction phase of EUREP until February 2001. Since March 2001, EHI founded the independent company FOODPLUS GmbH that serves as legal owner of the protocol and hosts the EUREP Secretariat. EUREPGAP is not a legal requirement, but may be required by individual retailers as part of their contract specifications.

Currently, EUREP has established a GAP protocol for fresh fruits and vegetables and is working on integrated farm assurance protocols for arable crops and livestock. At the EUREPGAP conference in September 2003, an updated fruits and vegetables protocol was unveiled. The details of this new protocol, as well as the planned protocols for other crops can be found on the EUREP website: [www.eurep.org](http://www.eurep.org).

Several European retailers are already requesting EUREPGAP certification for fresh produce or have indicated their intention to begin requesting certification by January 1, 2004. However, not all European retailers are members of EUREP and not all members have the same requirements or deadlines. In addition, some retailers may continue to impose additional GAP requirements on suppliers above and beyond EUREPGAP. Suppliers should check with individual retailer customers about their requirements.

Current EUREP retailer members for the fresh produce protocol are listed below (check the EUREP website for updates):

Retailer	Country
Ahold	Netherlands
Albert Heijn	Netherlands
Asda	UK
Coop	Sweden
Coop	Switzerland
Coop Italia	Italy
Delhaize	Belgium
DRC / Belgium Auction Market	Belgium
Eroski	Spain
ICA	Sweden
Laurus	Netherlands
Marks & Spencer	UK
McDonald's Europe	Germany
Metro	Germany
Migros	Switzerland
Safeway	UK
Sainsbury's	UK
Somerfield	UK
Spar Österreich	Austria
Superquinn	Ireland
Superunie	Netherlands
Tesco	UK
Trade Service Netherland BV	Netherlands
Waitrose	UK

In addition to certification to the EUREPGAP protocol, there is also a possibility to have existing GAP standards benchmarked to EUREPGAP. This allows farmers covered by an existing standard to have their produce recognized as EUREPGAP equivalent. According to the EUREP website, the following existing GAP programs have been recognized as equivalent

to EUREPGAP: Assured Produce (UK), Naturane (Spain), Natursense (Spain) and UNE (Spain).

EUREP has established a new benchmarking procedure and has recognized JAS-ANZ to carry out assessments. JAS-ANZ was established by the Australian and New Zealand Governments in 1991 for the purpose of being the recognized accreditation body for the two countries to facilitate. It is also member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and is party to the Multi-Lateral Agreement (MLA). According to the EUREP website, certification scheme owners wishing to apply for benchmarking should contact Ms Kylie Sheehan, Manager Business and Program Development, JAS-ANZ, 6 Phipps Close, Deakin Act 2601, Australia Tel: +61 (02) 6282 1299; Fax: +61 (02) 6282 6818; Email [ksheehan@jas-anz.com.au](mailto:ksheehan@jas-anz.com.au). Further information about benchmarking can also be found on the EUREP website.

**Visit our website:** our website [www.useu.be/agri/](http://www.useu.be/agri/) provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. E-mail: [AgUSEUbrussels@fas.usda.gov](mailto:AgUSEUbrussels@fas.usda.gov)

#### **Related reports from USEU Brussels:**

<b>Report Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Released</b>
E23110	Private Sector Food Safety Certification	06/18/2003
E21086	Global Food Safety Initiative	07/09/2001
E21134	Horticultural Products Certification	11/06/2001