

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – English version

Item 4.4 Proposal for an International Day of Potato

Member name	Comments
<p>Belgium Friday, July 1, 2022 04:13 PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potato is a highly nutritious and healthy Belgian root vegetable/starch that contains many vitamins and forms the basis of our country's diet. In Belgium, many farmers grow potatoes: their production amounts to 5 million tons per year, which makes this industry essential for the Belgian economy. One category of Belgian potato (called “the bintje”) even benefits from an European protected geographical indication, recognizing the quality of this product from Belgium. • Being one of the biggest exporting countries of processed potato products, Belgium offers a wide variety of fries/chips, mashed potatoes, rosties, etc. Belgian fries [production and consumption], which are part of Belgium’s culture and pride, are world famous. • For the above reasons, Belgium fully supports the initiative to launch an international potato day. By celebrating this highly nutritious product, Belgium would indeed be proud to contribute to fight food insecurity/malnutrition worldwide while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, in particular SDG 2 (zero hunger).
<p>European Union and its 27 Member States Friday, July 1, 2022 06:36 PM</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. 2. We acknowledge that potatoes are a highly versatile food source. With food security under pressure in so many countries around the world, there is scope for increasing the contribution which potatoes can make in ensuring that sufficient safe and nutritious food is available and accessible for all. Potato production also presents great potential to improve the livelihood of small-scale farmers and their families and to combat rural poverty. All this can make a critical contribution to the 2030 Agenda. 3. We recognise the important challenges potato cultivation is facing around the world. Promoting research and innovation as well as empowering small-scale producers is key to increasing the sustainability and resilience of the potato value chain, especially in low- and middle-income countries. An International Day of the Potato could be very helpful in raising awareness of the need to address those challenges effectively and in further promoting the important role of potatoes for food security and nutrition. 4. With these remarks, we can agree to the submission of the related Draft Resolution to the FAO Council for further consideration.