



The NDFTA Is Looking Ahead to See How We Thrive in a Post-Brexit World

There remains much work to do in addressing the legacy of Brexit, as trade has undergone significant changes since the UK's departure from Europe. There is increasing divergence between EU and UK regulations, which increases complexity for our industry. Deciding whether to seek alignment or divergence from the EU is an ongoing topic of discussion.



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As the Nut and Dried Fruit Trade Association (NDFTA) is the representative trade body for dried fruits and nuts in the UK, it is focused on addressing these legacy issues from Brexit, which are important to our membership. As an organisation, we are also about looking forward. Therefore, it is important that we play a role in shaping upcoming regulatory changes and ensuring that the interests of our sector are met in the future.

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To support these activities, the NDFTA Board recognised that we needed to invest more resources in our Technical Committee, which leads on these matters on behalf of the NDFTA. In July 2024, we recruited a designated Chair to lead the Technical Committee. This was a key enabler that has allowed us to set up more working groups to address issues that really matter to our members, including the topics of nutrition and sustainability. This recent commitment has also allowed us to engage more directly with relevant UK authorities, such as the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), on topics that are important for our membership.

As part of our strategy to engage with the UK authorities, we have participated in numerous consultations and have received good engagement on several points, resulting in feedback being considered regarding establishing a standardised approach across UK ports and access to port notification data. We will continue to expand our engagement with UK authorities, ensuring that our members' interests are well represented.

Our work would not be possible without the support from our wide network of European trade associations, such as FRUCOM, the European Snacks Association (ESA) and the INC, as well as our affiliations with larger UK organisations like the Food and Drink Federation (FDF). These organisations have provided us with expertise and better reach to liaise with relevant UK Government and European Commission stakeholders on broad issues that face our sector and the wider food industry.

The NDFTA will continue to develop the technical support it provides to its members, helping them navigate both their immediate and long-term challenges. ■

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