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UK is progressing towards 100% sustainable palm oil target

The [annual assessment of consumption of sustainable palm oil](#) produced in October 2013 by CPET showed an increase from 155,000 metric tonnes in 2009 to 277,961 metric tonnes in 2012 in purchases of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) supported by Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) approved supply chain mechanisms. The estimated proportion of CSPO palm oil imports (excluding derivatives and finished goods) is either 52% or 60%, depending upon the baseline trade data used. Work is now underway for the 2014 update report which will be published in October 2014. Contact us for more information about the upcoming analysis.

**New EU labelling December 2014**

Forthcoming changes to food labelling will make it easier for consumers to identify which products contain palm oil. Changes to the [European Food Information for Consumers Regulations](#) will mean labels have to identify the specific types of vegetable oils that have been used. Businesses are beginning to implement the change, which will be mandatory on all food products from 13 December 2014.

**RSPO National Initiatives meeting:**

A RSPO National Initiatives meeting held on 3 June 2014 in London updated stakeholders on some of the ongoing EU national and EU-wide initiatives. Current commitments and progress towards achieving them, as well as lessons and ways to continue to work together were discussed during the meeting. Here is a summary of some of the national initiatives presented at the meeting:

UK

"The United Kingdom is working towards achieving 100% sourcing of credibly certified sustainable palm oil by the end of 2015". ([UK Statement, 2012](#)).



Eighteen trade associations and NGOs have signed up to the initiative through a government coordinated collaborative approach. The [Food and Catering Government Buying Standard \(GBS\)](#) requires that from the end of 2015 all palm oil (including palm kernel oil and products derived from palm oil) used for cooking and as an ingredient in food must be sustainably produced.

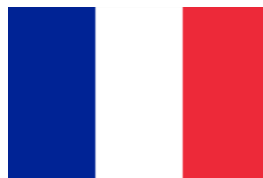
Netherlands

The [Dutch Task Force for Sustainable Palm Oil](#) has made a commitment of 100% CSPO by 2015, which is monitored through a [yearly report](#). CSPO has increased from about 20% to about 41% in 2012.



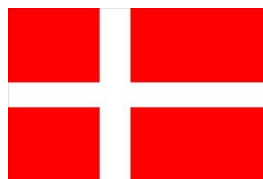
France

By 2015, [Alliance](#) members made a commitment to use 100% RSPO certified palm oil. They have committed to use SPO corresponding to the highest level of certification available by 2020.



Denmark

The Danish food industry and processors made a commitment in June 2014 to buy 100% CSPO by 2016 including [GreenPalm](#) and by 2018 to have 100% segregated certified palm oil.



Sweden

The Swedish Initiative for Sustainable Palm Oil, driven in part by the 850 members from the Swedish Food Federation, is aiming for 100% sustainable palm oil by 2015.



Belgium

The [Belgian Alliance of Sustainable Palm Oil](#) has a national target to achieve 100% sustainable palm oil present in food & feed & non-food products by the end of 2015. In 2012, 31% of palm oil used by the food industry for the Belgian market was sustainable.



Germany

The [German Forum Sustainable Palm Oil](#) has committed that by the end of 2014, members will use only CSPO in their products. Their aim is to significantly boost the proportion of segregated CSPO on German, Austrian and Swiss markets and to make 100% certified palm oil available for these markets as soon as possible.



Other EU commitments

Set up only a year ago, the [European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group](#) (ESPOAG) has members including [CAOBISCO](#), [AIBI](#), [IMACE](#), [FEDIMA](#), [FEDIOL](#) and representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia. They are working to support national commitments through coordination and visibility.

A Norwegian [campaign](#) led by the NGOs Rainforest Foundation Norway and Green Living led to consumption of palm oil in food products decreasing by two thirds in just one year: in 2012, eight major food producers cut their use of palm oil by 9,600 tons, from 15,000 tons.

New Website

Our new website is available at www.gov.uk/government/groups/central-point-of-expertise-on-timber. Palm oil pages can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-sustainable-development-a-part-of-all-government-policy-and-operations> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/sustaining-and-enhancing-trees-forests-and-woodland/supporting-pages/using-sustainably-produced-palm-oil>.