

Dear Members,

Please be informed about the following.

Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner 18 April 2024

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 18 April 17.00 hours at the Citizen M Hotel, Gelderseplein 50, 3011 WZ in Rotterdam. This is 2 minutes' walk from the Laurenskerk. The agenda will be sent to the members about one week prior to the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting for arbitrators will be held at 17.15 hours at the same location. All arbitrator will be invited and will receive the agenda one week in advance.

The Annual Dinner is fully booked.

For members who have allocated tickets for the NOFOTA dinner

- Doors of the Laurenskerk will be open as from 17.30 hours and the dinner starts at 19.00 hours.
- Dress code is business formal.
- In order to have a smooth entrance to the venue and in order to make the NOFOTA Dinner Guest Book, it is important that you have finalised the registration **not later than 28 March 2024** via the [online registration system](#). After the registration you can download the personal e-ticket(s) and forward it to your guest. Also enter your guests' dietary requirements, if applicable.



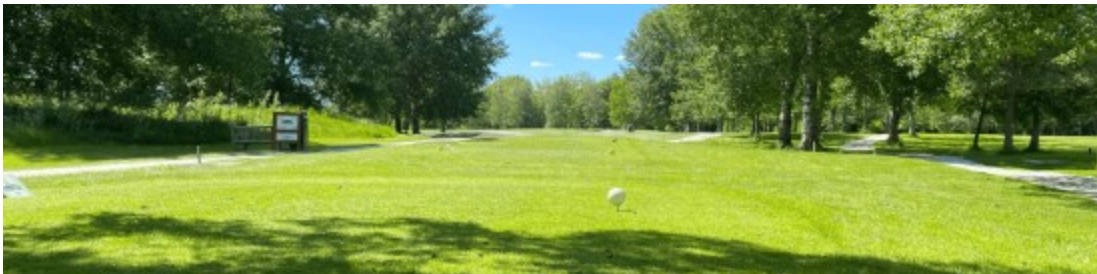
If you come by car the nearest parking garages are:

- [Parkeergarage Markthal](#)
- [Parkeergarage Kiphof](#)

If you are planning to stay overnight, the following hotels are on walking distance:

- [Citizen M Hotel](#)
- [Motto by Hilton](#)
- [Ibis Hotel City Centre](#)
- [H2O Hotel](#)
- [Savoy Hotel Rotterdam](#)
- [Postillion Hotel World Trade Centre](#)

Golf Tournament 31 May 2024



The 34th NOFOTA Golf Tournament will be held on Friday 31 May at Golf Club Almeerderhout in Almere.

Golf Club Almeerderhout is located in a beautiful area in southern Flevoland, just over the Stichtse Brug. The golf course with four loops Gooimeer, Markermeer and IJmeer is located in the middle of nature, each par-36 and a challenging 9-hole par-3 course.

If you are not a golf player yet and you are interested to participate in a clinic, please let us know by e-mail. We might organise a clinic when at least 10 people are interested.

The registration is already started and we expect around 40 players. Please find [herewith](#) the invitation and registration.

Future EU biofuels feedstock trade depends on full UDB use

By 21 November 2024 all economic operators (EO) trading feedstocks for biofuels need to possess a Union Database (UDB) account and actively use it for every batch traded for supply to the EU. Currently 25 percent of the EOs don't have an account yet and of the companies that started the registration process half did not yet complete the registration procedure successfully. So a lot still has to be done to prevent trade getting disrupted. For more information please [download this document](#).

News from the Technical Committee

In the criteria for recognised superintendents, laboratories and storage companies reference is made to their general conditions and that these must be deposited either with the relevant District Court or with the relevant Chamber of Commerce. However, this is not obligatory anymore as long the company publishes their general conditions where they can be easily find, for instance on their website.

NOFOTA works together with the NEN standard committee and FOSFA on the revision of the ISO standard 5555 for sampling. The Technical Committee meets on 4 April in Zoetermeer and combine the meeting with the NEN standard committee for oils & fats.



Discussions with the Dutch competent authorities on in-transit parcels

On March 14, NOFOTA, MVO , The Royal Grain & Feed Association (Het Comité), KNSV and NZV had a discussion with the NVWA about the reporting obligation for in-transit goods as expressed in the recently updated reporting guide for unsafe foodstuffs. It was agreed in advance not to exchange legal arguments for the time being, but to discuss the (practical) problems from the business community about the reporting obligation for goods in transit and to see whether the NVWA can offer 'solutions' for this within their supervisory framework. This does not alter the fact that the organisations are of the opinion that no reporting obligation applies to in-transit goods because these goods have not been 'put on the market or released into free circulation'. This position was expressly stated in the conversation.

The organisations have explained that, among other things:

- problems are experienced with long response times from the NVWA and/or if there is no response (black box).
- the lack of permission from third countries and/or the country of origin for (re)export.
- that it reporting leads to 'boarder rejections'.

- information is shared via RASFF with unnecessary negative images and all the consequences that entails and
- the fact that such a reporting obligation does not apply in neighboring countries.

These problems undermine the fundament of freedom of trade. The NVWA has explained the working method for notifications and the information position they aspire to for setting priorities. During the discussion, it appeared that there was some willingness on the part of the NVWA to consider whether the practical problems that companies face can be prevented and whether work processes can be adjusted (for example: whether permission from third countries should continue to be required after 'rejection' in the EU).

The five organisations accepted the proposal for a follow-up meeting after approximately 4 weeks.

Non-business days 2024

29 March	Good Friday (Friday)
1 April	Easter Monday
9 May	Ascension Day
20 May	Whit-Monday
24 December	Christmas Eve* (Tuesday)
25 December	Christmas Day (Wednesday)
26 December	Boxing Day (Thursday)
31 December	New Year's Eve* (Tuesday)

Dates with an * indicate a half non-business day starting 12.00 hrs. noon.

The dates are also available on the website under [About us/non-business days](#).



Events in 2024

March 26	MVO Annual Assembly and Networking event	VNO-NCW, Den Haag
April 18	NOFOTA AGM and Dinner	Laurenskerk, Rotterdam
May 31	NOFOTA/Comité Golf Tournament	Almeerderhout, Almere
June 12-14	EFRA Annual Congress	Amsterdam
June 12-13	FEDIOL General Assembly	Budapest
June 20	NOFOTA/Comité Midsummer Trade Reception	Rotterdam
September 1-6	FOSFA Basic Introductory and Advanced Courses	London
September 10-11	OFI International 2024 and the 3 rd Sustainable Vegetable Oils Conference from CPOPC	Ahoy, Rotterdam
September (tba)	NOFOTA Seminar on Trading Rules	VNAB, Rotterdam
November 7	FOSFA Annual Dinner and AGM	London

If you would like us to send this Circular Letter to your colleagues, please inform us with their name and e-mail address. They will then receive our future correspondence. Please note that NOFOTA's communication goes through a mailing service. It is possible that mails end up in your SPAM mailbox. We therefore advise you to check this mailbox regularly.

Best regards,

Ron van Noord
Secretary General

Jan Aalberts
President



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