

TO ALL MEMBERSKoninklijke NOFOTA
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Zoetermeer, 8 October 2019

Dear Members,
Please find herewith the Circular Letter with various topics.

Annual General Meeting & Dinner on 23 April 2020

The AGM and Dinner will be held in the Hulstkamp Building in Rotterdam on **Thursday 23 April 2020**. Members will receive the invitation and online registration via e-mail in the second half of January 2020. We don't reserve tickets or tables beforehand.

Seminar on Digitization and Blockchain in the Agri sector

Friday afternoon, 22 November 2019 NOFOTA, MVO - the Netherlands Oils and Fats Industry, and The Royal Dutch Grain and Feed Trade Association 'Het Comité' will organize a seminar on Digitization and blockchain in the agri-food chain for its members.

The trade in agri-food products is constantly changing. Traditionally it has been the role of the international trade to supply the world with safe (food) products in a responsible and sustainable way. Due to world population growth and change of consumers values, communication systems in the agri-food chain must change as well. This requires additional modernization and innovation. One of the important developments our industry is facing is the digitization of the trade. In the coming years digitization will influence the business process in the agri-food chain. The purpose of this seminar is to give some insights in where we are today and to outline the opportunities and the challenges in the oils, fats and grain industry.

Program:

13.00	Registration, with coffee and tea
13.30	<i>Introduction to Blockchain</i> , Wouter Jacobs , Academic Director Executive Programme Leadership Commodity Trade and Supply Networks at the Erasmus University
13.40	<i>Blockchain enabled frictionless trade: applications & impact</i> Aljosja Beije , Logistics and Technology Lead at BlockLab Alfred Botterhuis , Innovation Manager at ABN AMRO Bank
14.00	<i>Spicing up the blockchain trend</i> Marianne van Keep , Director of Sustainability at Verstegen Spices & Sauces
14.25	Break
15.00	<i>Collaborative efforts towards modernizing global agri trade operations</i> Petya Sechanova , Trade Execution Leader at Cargill

15.20	<i>Legal aspects of Blockchain</i> Dennis Zieren , IT and Public Procurement Lawyer, Ploum, Rotterdam Law Firm
15.40	Panel debate
16.30	Drinks and Bites

The seminar will be moderated by: **Wouter Jacobs**, Academic Director Executive Programme Leadership Commodity Trade and Supply Networks at the Erasmus University.

Location: [VNAB Knowledge and Meeting Center](#), the former premises of De Nederlandsche Bank on Boompjes 251, Rotterdam.

For the invitation (members only), programme and registration please click [here](#).

Recognized Companies

On 11 September 2019 a meeting was organised with representatives from the NOFOTA recognized companies. During this meeting the President, Annemarie Keemink, gave an inside to the NOFOTA Trading Rules and the position of the recognized companies in these rules. She also referred to the history and the reasoning of having implemented the recognition scheme.

The Chairman of the Technical Committee, Robert van Kempen, explained the changes to the criteria that were made earlier this year and the transformation to administrative audits.

All participants present shared their views and experiences. Valuable suggestions and information is taken from the meeting, for further action.

Brexit

On 8 October the UK's Department for International Trade published the provisional import duty rates (MFN) that it will apply on products from the EU in case the UK leaves the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement on 31 October 2019. For the complete list of products and duties (also other product groups than oils and fats) that UK's Department for International Trade published on the 8th of October, [click](#). If your goods are not listed, you will not have to pay customs duty (tariff) when importing them into the UK.

Most oils and fats will be duty free, but certain oils, fats and associated products will face an import duty. The UK will maintain import duties on crude palm oil and crude coconut and palm kernel oil for food applications.

The Contract Committee of NOFOTA will discuss possible consequences from the Brexit for the Trading Rules in due course. Members will be informed by Circular Letter and via the website before 31 October 2019.

Report "Future NOFOTA"

In one of our previous Circular Letter's we introduced Mrs. Medina Sakić. Medina studied Marketing & Sales at the Hogeschool in Rotterdam. Medina wrote a report for her thesis, which she succeeded. NOFOTA is proud that she received her bachelor in the meantime. The report was based on research and an online survey, as well as interviews with Council and Committee members. Members who have taken the opportunity to give feedback for this report are sincerely thanked.

We share with you some of the points that came out of the research/survey:

- to improve the exposure and visibility of NOFOTA;
- to be more internationally focused;
- to facilitate more information and activities;
- to fulfil the need for education and training of member employees;
- to cooperate more with other (trade and industry) associations/partners.

A Petit Comité will consider the above points as well as other suggestions from the report and will propose an implementation plan to the Council.

Vacancies

There are vacancies in the Technical Committee. People with a technical background or view on the trade and production are welcome. For example, people working in the QA and/or QC area are of added value.

New arbitrators are also welcome. If you are active in the trade/industry and having several years' experience in a qualified position you can become an arbitrator. Interested? Please contact the [NOFOTA secretariat](#).

Recently the Council agreed to amend the criteria to become an (appeal) arbitrator. The age limit of 30 years has been deleted and the years of experiences decreased to 5.

Furthermore, the period after retirement was increased to 5 years.

The new guidelines for qualifications as (appeal) arbitrator are as follows:

- Being active in the trade/industry.
- Having at least 5 years of experience in a qualified position.
- Being a member or being employed by a member, or having been appointed by an A-member, or having been coopted by the Council.
- Retirement as arbitrator 5 years after retirement from the trade/industry.
- After having been arbitrator in 3 arbitrations, an arbitrator can become an appeal arbitrator too.
- Prospective arbitrators will first follow at least 1 arbitration as an observer.

FOSFA news

The FOSFA International Annual Dinner is being held this year at the Beurs of Berlage in Amsterdam on Wednesday 23 October 2019. FOSFA members can contact the [FOSFA secretariat](#) to purchase tickets.

FOSFA appointed Mr. Eric Christensen earlier this year as the new trade policy and development manager. Eric has a background in the grains and oilseeds trade in Argentina, over a ten-year period. NOFOTA wishes Eric lot of success.

Members

The number of members is currently 156, of which 9 A-members, 86 B-members and 61 C-members.

As per our Circular Letter of September we informed you that UCO Kampen's membership was terminated because of their bankruptcy.

NOFOTA Non-business days

2019

24 December	Christmas Eve (Tuesday)*
25 December	Christmas Day (Wednesday)
26 December	Boxing Day (Thursday)
31 December	New Year's Eve*

2020

1 January	New Year's Day (Wednesday)
10 April	Good Friday
13 April	Eastern Monday
27 April	King's Day (Monday)
21 May	Ascension Day
1 June	Whit-Monday
24 December	Christmas Eve (Thursday)*
25 December	Christmas Day (Friday)
31 December	New Year's Eve* (Thursday)

(*) Half NOFOTA Non-business day as from 12.00 hours Dutch local time

Diary and events

2019

23 October	FOSFA Annual Dinner (Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam)
14 November	Het Comité Annual Dinner (WTC Building, Rotterdam)
22 November	Seminar on Blockchain NOFOTA/MVO/het Comité (Rotterdam)
28 November	GROFOR Annual Dinner (Grand Elysee Hotel, Hamburg)
5 December	FOSFA Oils & Fats Dinner (Tallow Chandlers, London)

2020

9 January	NOFOTA & Het Comité joint-New Year's Reception (Rotterdam)
23 April	NOFOTA AGM and Annual Dinner (Hulstkamp Building, Rotterdam)

Hope to have informed you sufficiently.

Best regards,



Ron van Noord
Secretary General



Annemarie Keemink
President