

Romania signs Danube Soya Declaration

State Secretary Achim Irimescu from the Romanian Ministry of Rural Development signed the Danube Soya Declaration in Bucharest in the presence of Matthias Kron, Chairman of Danube Soya on February 5th 2013.

Romania is already the ninth state to sign the declaration. Matthias Kron, Chairman of the Danube Soya Association "Romania's accession brings further thrust into the Danube Soya project. Now we can show that the cropping of non-GM soybeans presents an interesting opportunity for the Romanian farmers. We will use the upcoming growing season to forge close relations with Romania farmers and develop best practice models and training programs."

Federal Minister Berlakovich: "It is a major political success for all of us that Romania signed the Danube Soya Declaration, because the country has great potential for soybean cultivation. Romania thus supports the very important roadmap for the supply of GM-free, regional soya. This will further reduce Europe's import dependency. "

Romania has the largest potential for soybean cultivation in the EU 27. Before EU accession Romania had approximately 170,000 hectares of soya cultivation, and an even higher potential. Many farmers, however, have grown GM-soyabeans before EU accession and have no information on the demand for non-GMO soybeans and no market access. The interest of farmers on non-GM soya cultivation is substantial, but there are significant training and capital expenditure requirements.

"Romania can benefit from the Danube Soya initiative, because Danube Soya creates a direct connection from farmers to the buyers of food-grade, organic and feed-grade soya beans. Setting up new supply chains for sustainable soya is a great challenge and a lot of time and energy is required to deliver tangible results. "

The Danube Soya Declaration is a commitment to improving Europe's protein supply based on a regional, sustainable and non-GM soya cultivation in the Danube countries. The signatories will work together to improve the agricultural policy framework for soybeans and jointly promote research and development in the Danube Soybean Initiative. The Danube Soya Initiative will bring an important contribution to improving crop rotation, improving the CO2 balance of food and the development of the Danube region.

The non-profit, international, multi stakeholder Danube Soya Association is an independent business platform and was established in April 2012 in Vienna. Danube Soya has 49 members from many countries along the Danube. Ordinary members are companies from agricultural production, seed production, agricultural trade, oil mills, food and feed producers, processors and retailers animal. Associate members are environmental organizations, other associations, chambers and NGOs.

The associations owns the international brand soy Danube and is establishing a comprehensive quality assurance system. Danube Soya also develops a research program.

Contact:

Mag. Ursula Bittner

Manager

A-1010 Wien, Wiesingerstraße 6/9

Tel.0043 1 512174411

Fax: 00431 51217443

bittner@donausoja.org

www.donausoja.org



Persons on the picture from right to left:

State Secretary Achim Irimescu, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Romania,

Matthias Krön, Chairman of Danube Soya Association

Monica Popa, Austrian Embassy Bukarest, Department Agriculture

Verein Donau Soja, Wiesingerstraße 6/9; 1010 Wien

Zentrale Vereinsregisterzahl: 974917455 ☐ Bank: Sparkasse Baden ☐ Name: Verein Donau Soja ☐

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