

Thailand Trade Office

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Dear Friend of Thai Vegetables,

Lately we informed you on situation regarding five groups of vegetable (16 products in total - please see Annex) that, in countering harmful organism (insects) problem, Thai authority had proposed plan of 100 % phytosanitary inspection prior-exportation, instead of self-export suspension, and EU Commission was considering the plan. We would like to update you on this matter.

The EU Commission has agreed upon the proposal with conditions that the 100% inspection shall be fully implemented by 15 March 2011 onwards and, most importantly, **the problem shall "NOT" be intercepted, upon arrival at all EU ports, over 5 consignments within one year** otherwise the EU Commission will initiate banning procedure. That means a very tiny margin of error could be found to those 16 vegetables originated from Thailand.

Currently, the Thai authority is in the process to set up inspection procedural for 16 vegetables that exporting to the EU, Norway, and Switzerland. In brief, from 14 March 2011 onwards, only authorized exporters/packing houses will be able to export 16 vegetables in question to those countries. There are several strict quality control procedures from farm to airport, which exporters/packing houses need to follow. The authority will run 100 % inspection in all consignments destined to those countries. During this preparatory process, **exportation of those 16 vegetables from Thailand will be "temporarily disturbed," which means products will not be available in the BENELUX market for a certain period until all processes are successfully operationalized.**

Thailand Trade Office/Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, the Hague, and the Office of Agricultural Affairs, in Brussels, would like to reiterate to all Thai vegetable friends, including importers, supermarkets, Thai restaurants, Thai food lovers etc., that working together is an only way to keep Thai products sustainable available in the market. Please inform your business partners in Thailand that their strong cooperation with Thai authority is utmost important.

We will follow up situation closely and will inform you accordingly. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. You can reach us at comhague@euronet.nl or telephone number: 070-345 5444.

Your continue passion in Thai vegetables are most needed.

Thailand Trade Office / Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, The Hague. 16 March 2011

Annex

List of the plants and plant products originating in Thailand imported into the EU, submitted to additional phytosanitary measures.

- *Ocimum* (basil) including:
 - *Ocimum tenuiflorum* Linn. (basil)
 - *Ocimum basilicum* Linn. (sweet basil)
 - *Ocimum americanum* Linn. (hairy Basil)
 - *Ocimum gratissimum* Lin.. (yee-raa)

- *Momordica* (bitter gourd) including:
 - *Momordica charantia* L.(balsam pear)
 - *Momordica charantia* L. (bitter gourd)

- *Solanum melongena* (egg plant) including:
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (round eggplant)
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (long eggplant)
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (mauve eggplant)
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (yellow round eggplant)
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (white round eggplant)
 - *Solanum melongena* Linn. (cockroach berry)

- *Capsicum* (sweet pepper) including:
 - *Capsicum annuum* Linn. (pepper bell)
 - *Capsicum annuum* var. *aminatum* Fingerh. (Chili spur pepper)
 - *Capsicum frutescens* (bird Chili)

- *Eryngium foetidum* (Mexican coriander)