

## Weird vegetables, however may go to the EU



The European Union deliberates the abolishment of the controversial regulation, by which fruits and vegetables of small and weird shape have been forbidden to sell. Fruitages of

some of the kinds as are apples, nectarines or tomatoes, which do not satisfy the regulation, could be sold only at separated desks and with specially highlighted marks. The abolishment of regulation has been explained by the official Brussels as blocking the excessive increase of food prices. The regulation has often been ridiculed by the Euro-skeptics, who have also used it as a proof of an egregious bureaucracy of the Union.

(Source: Nova TV)

## EU regulates grandma's recipes?

The news that Austrian, who has sold gallons of marmalade made out of apricot, which have been made by a recipe of his grandmother, according to the regulations of the Union could go to prison, has provoked a list of reactions of the European institutions on press writing. Austrian, as it has been published by press, should go to prison, because the regulations of the Union prescribe that the marmalade can contain only south fruits. Services of the EU have replied to media that this is not about "Brussels' bureaucrats' puddles", than it is about a manner in which the governments of Austria apply the laws of the Union. Regulation of the EU from 1979. prescribes, namely, that a term marmalade can relate only to products made out of south fruits. Everything else should be called jam. When Austria decided to join the Union, it has adapted the European regulation by copying its

first neighbor – Germany. In Germany, however, there is only one word which marks all kinds of fruit creams, therefore marmalade and jam as well. In some parts of Austria, however, term of



marmalade is more often being used, than jam.

(Source: general media and intelligence administration of the European Commission)

## Europe conquered by potato



Even though the potato has come to Europe in the middle of 16<sup>th</sup> century, it became to Europeans as one of their key groceries. Researches show that an

average European eats 96 kilograms of potato per year.

“Humble rhizome”, at the same time unnoticeable, as it is appreciated, is a very important link in a global food chain, and a demand of growth of this plant goes in parallel with population. For lifting of awareness on importance of potato, “Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations” (FAO), has designed in 2008. a National year of potato. Usually, potato is being planted on mountains of Andes in South America by thousands of years, before it has come to Europe.

*(Source: general media and intelligence administration of the European Commission)*

## Meat only for an in house use

On Balkans, special attention has been given to a question if butchery and production of domestic meat specialties in households has been forbidden in countries of the European Union. It has been allowed in countries of the EU, but only for consuming in households.

Meat and meat manufactures, which are intended for market, must come from butcherries which satisfy precise veterinary-sanitary criterions, and those include a human act towards animals.

This also implies special methods of killing of animals.



*(Oslobodenje, December 2008)*

## Grill, liquor, domestic cheese and cakes



The European Union does not forbid production of alcohol for domestic needs, but if producers decide to sell it, they must ensure a list of conditions for that. They must respect the European regulations on hygiene of production, declaration of products, obligated issuing of receipts and similar. The Union claims that it has adopted the regulations due to protection of consumers. It is similar with the cheese

and sour cream. Prohibition of production of cheese and sour cream in the Union does not exist, but if those products have been placed on the European market, some more strict criterions on hygiene conditions and testing of animals on contagious diseases must be applied on them. Open market must have freezers or rooms with cooling system, adapted to keeping of easily rotting commodity. Domestic cakes prepared for school, religious or other ceremonies do not have to have a list of ingredients out of which they have been made. The Directive 2003/89/EC does not require from food in restaurants or at kiosks of "fast food" to contain a list of ingredients, but there is a condition that consumer must get "sufficient information" on it. What does it mean "sufficient information" – it is up to the Member States to decide.

*(Source: General media and intelligence administration)*

## EU threatened by diabetes

From 2003. to 2006., number of Europeans who suffer from diabetes has been increased by almost 20% and it is around 31 million of people, has been shown by report of the International diabetes foundation (IDF). Experts of the IDF have warned on a fact that since the last annual report there has not been achieved sufficient progress in implementing of national policies for combat against this disease. Pan-European research has analyzed national policies for diabetes in 27 countries of the EU, and in Croatia, Turkey and Kazakhstan. It has been confirmed that a number of sufferers in the EU has been increased to 31 million of people, and that a disease has taken



8.6% of adult population. It is expected that this number becomes bigger until 2025. Number of sufferers varies from 4% in Britain to 11.8% in Germany, and

majority of East-European Member States has more than 9% of those. In majority of Member States, diabetes takes more than 10% of expenditures for health care, and in some even 18.5%.

Only 13 Member States have national plans for combat against diabetes.

(Source: International diabetes foundation, October 2008.)