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- Press Release -

European Vegetable Crops affected by weather conditions

European vegetable canners and freezers in major producing countries are concerned over this year's spring crops. After a cold spring, the countries in the central production area of Europe had an exceptionally low rainfall in May and June and whilst differences are noted between the North and South of Europe, certain regions had 40 to 50% less precipitation than normal.

In addition, the first week of July has been tropically warm and dry with high winds, which intensified the dry-out effect. A heat wave was officially declared with record-high temperatures over 35°C. These meteorological conditions have affected major vegetable crops and shortages will occur for a number of vegetables:

- **Peas:** the crop will be reduced by the dry and hot weather. It will be a very short season with a later than normal start and an early finish.
- **Spring spinach:** after the cold spring the season has been moved up in time and not all the planned hectares could be sown and processed. The extreme drought and heat on top have further affected the crop.
- **Cauliflower:** a reduced production is resulting from heat and drought.
- **Beans:** because of the drought the sowing of beans became extremely difficult to nearly impossible.
- **Rootcrops (carrots):** the spring crop is late and lost its potential. Consequently concerns arise over the seasonal production of canned mixes of peas and carrots.

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PROFEL(Europe) is the European Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries (canned vegetables, frozen vegetables, dehydrated vegetables, jams and fruit preserves, canned fruit and compotes), representing over 500 companies in 13 EU countries.

Sources: BGCMS Bulletin 22 June 2015, Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium