

Hemp and agriculture

Report of 2018 campaign

January 2020

Introduction

The **European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA)** represents the common interests of hemp farmers, producers and traders working with hemp fibres, shives, seeds, leaves and cannabinoids. Our main task is to serve, protect and represent the hemp sector in the EU and international policy-making. EIHA covers different areas for the application of hemp, namely its use for construction materials, textiles, cosmetics, feed, food and supplements.

*"Hemp has greatly benefited from this conjuncture and capitalised on its innovative features. With its **many applications** for textile, construction, food and wellbeing, hemp is capable of delivering a **sustainable and resilient business model** that could set an example to the whole agricultural sector.*

*In order to foster transparency in the hemp market and encourage its development, EIHA, has conducted a **survey*** on the European hemp sector, assessing its main agricultural data. The results are presented in this document: we hope this will trigger the curiosity of stakeholders, as well as the larger agri-food community.*

A new agricultural revolution is knocking at our door and the hemp sector is more than ready to embrace it. We hope the EU will follow the market trends and be bold enough to trigger those regulatory changes capable of attracting the necessary investments needed for scaling up the production and marketing of hemp products."

Daniel Kruse, EIHA President

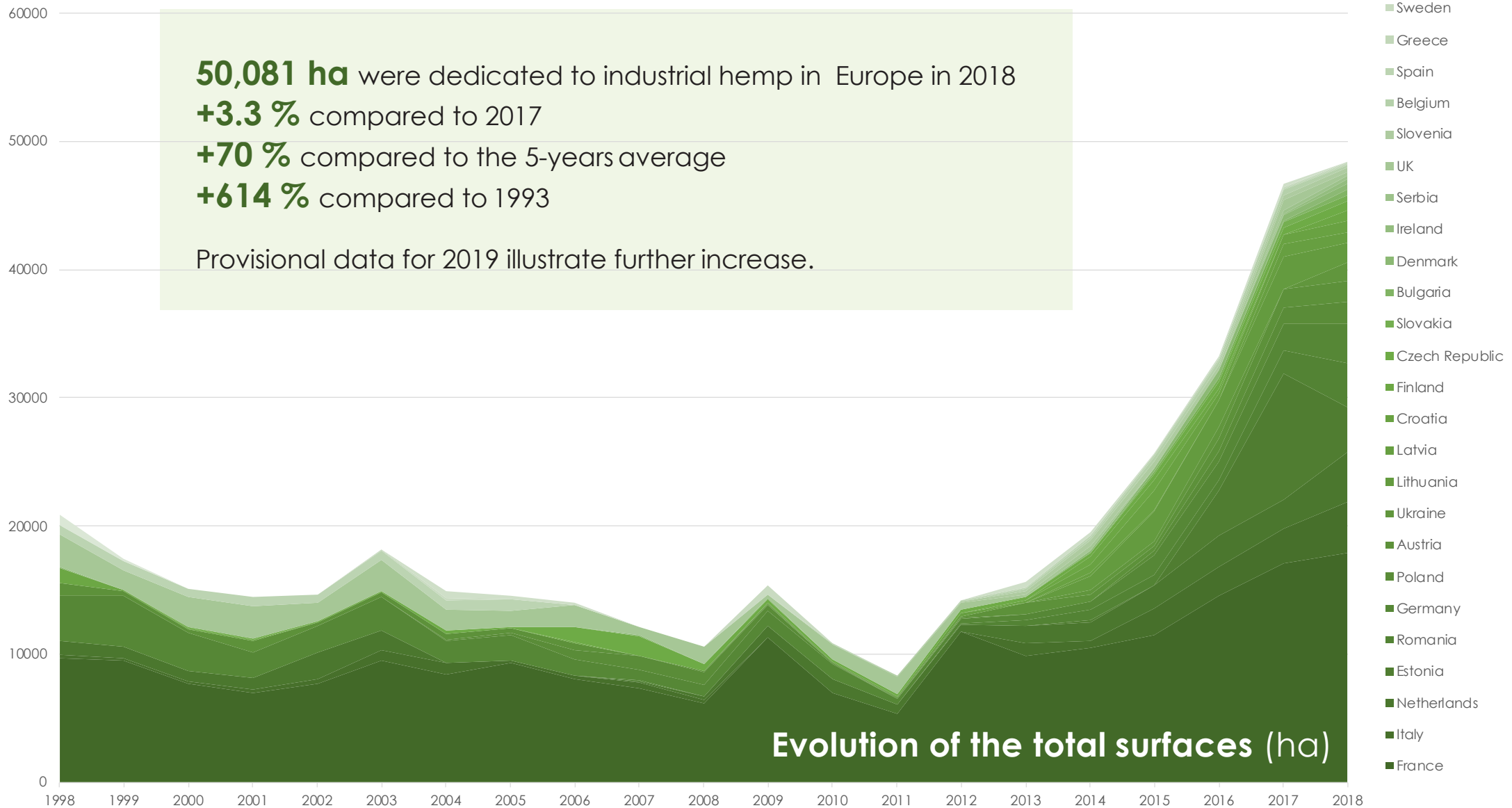
* The **survey** was conducted in collaboration with members and national hemp and farmers associations. The following Member States sent us directly their contribution on surfaces: Latvia, Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark, Slovakia, Sweden. Further data from other Member States was retrieved by official documents.



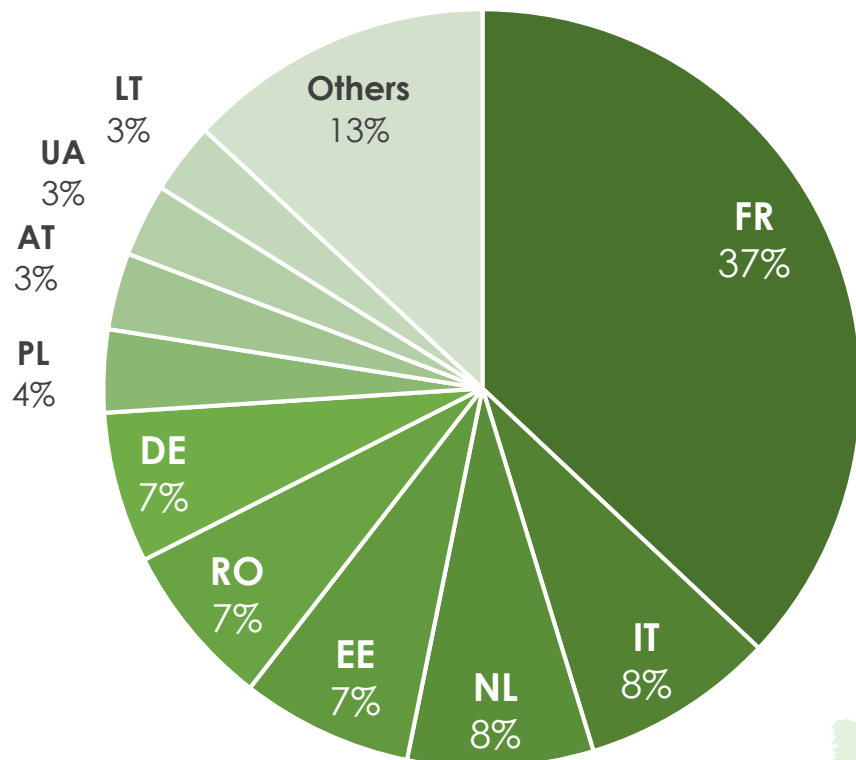
Hemp surfaces in Europe

50,081 ha were dedicated to industrial hemp in Europe in 2018
+3.3 % compared to 2017
+70 % compared to the 5-years average
+614 % compared to 1993

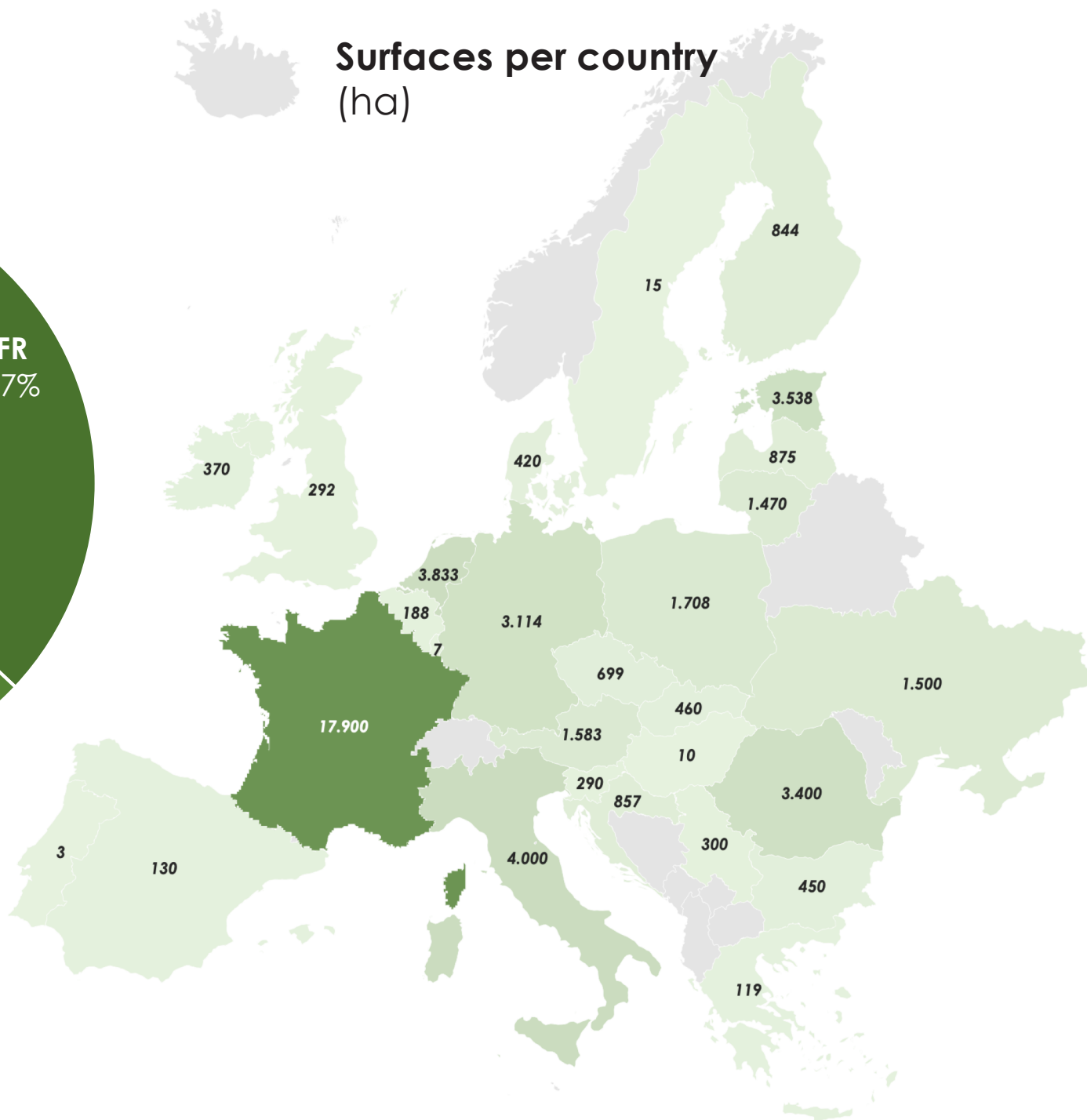
Provisional data for 2019 illustrate further increase.



**Share of surfaces
by country (%)**



**Surfaces per country
(ha)**



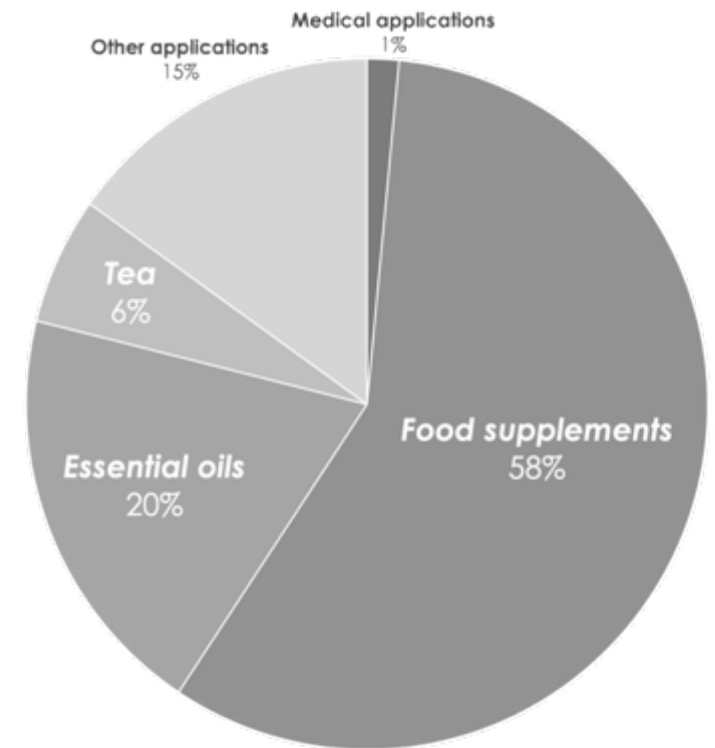
Sourcing and use

Sourcing by volume (tons)

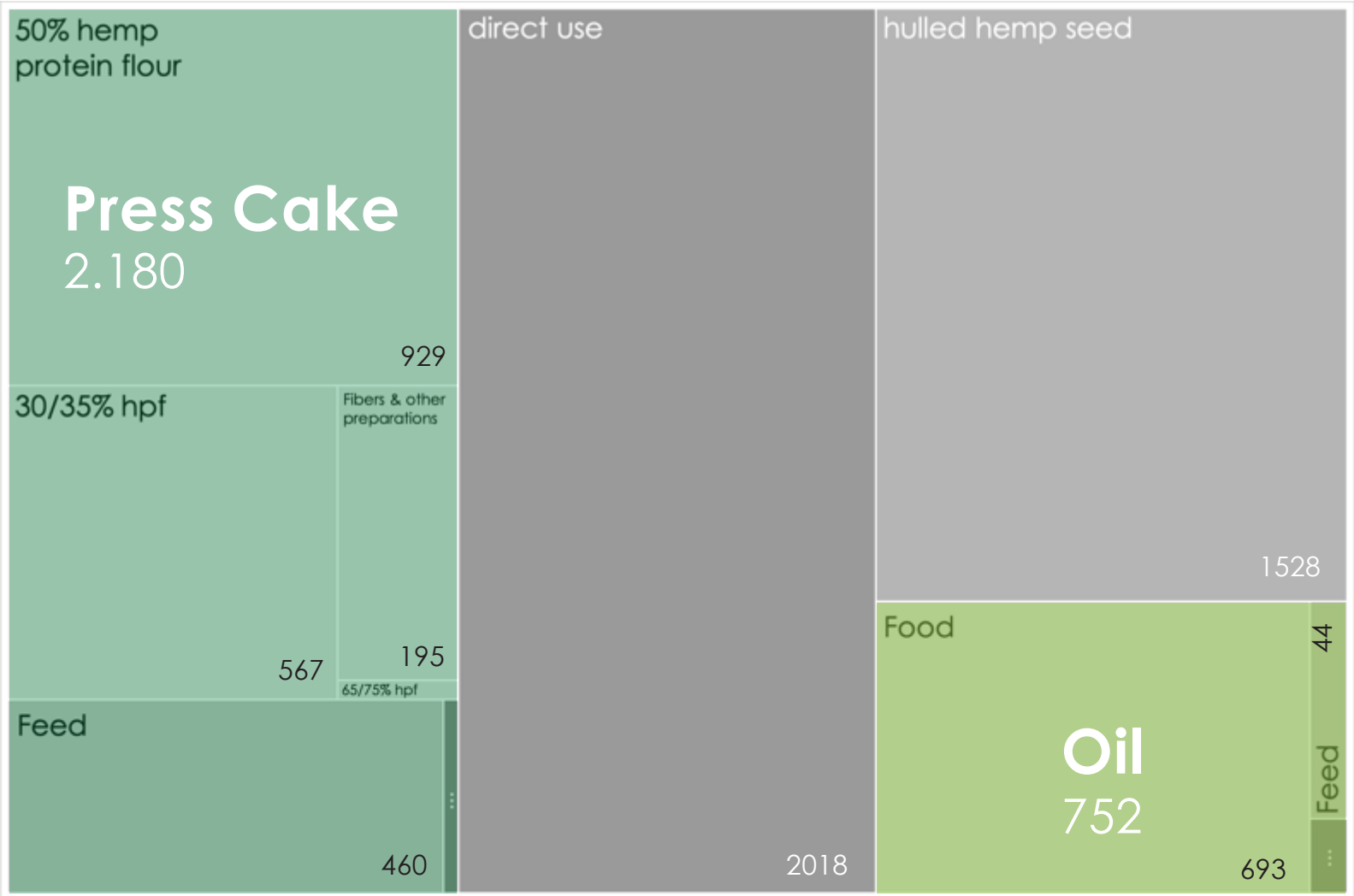


Almost **90%** of product is sourced within **Europe**.

Use of flowers and leaves (%)



Use of hempseed by volume (tons)



Environmental externalities

Clean air

1 ha = 8.9 to 13.4 tons of CO₂ captured.
As efficient as forests!

Healthy soils

- Little or no need for chemicals
- Ideal for organic and near surface water
- Produces large amounts of pollen (vital for bees) during period of floral scarcity

Biodiversity friendly

- Optimal pioneer or rotation crop;
- Leaves provide natural soil cover, reducing water loss and erosion;
- Higher yields recorded in subsequent crops;
- Eliminates efficiently weeds;
- Removes heavy metals from the ground.

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