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EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

FEDIOL 2024 Annual Report

Name in full + acronym	EU Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry FEDIOL
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N° in the transparency register*	8507600232131
Date of signature of the Code	5 th July 2021
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Primary processing of agricultural commodities -
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	70 companies, 180 processing sites, 11 national associations in the EU and the UK

* if available

1. Endorsement of aspirational objectives

When endorsing the Code in 2021, FEDIOL highlighted four aspirational objectives, which were considered relevant for the sector:

- Aspirational objective 1: Healthy, balanced and sustainable diets for all European consumers, thereby contributing to:
- Aspirational objective 3: A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050
- Aspirational objective 4: An optimised circular & resource-efficient food chain
- Aspirational objective 7: Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains

2. Promotion of the Code within the constituency

The three FEDIOL working groups discussed regularly during their meetings (three times a year), and when appropriate also at the level of sub-working groups, the relevant aspirational objectives and actions that relate to their specific areas of responsibility.

The FEDIOL Executive Board, at each of its meetings, took stock of progress or issues in the implementation of actions identified as supportive of the Code of Conduct objectives up to final approval.

FEDIOL held specific events, webinars or workshops, to explore with members specific questions and challenges they face. These events provided a platform to raise awareness

about individual and collective responsibilities in driving the sector towards more sustainability:

- In June 2023, the event on *Innovation driving Sustainability and Decarbonization* explored with experts tools which would help oilseed and vegetable oil processing to get to net-zero carbon emissions, by looking at decarbonizing our own processes, but also discussing the reduction of emissions within our supply chain.
- In May 2024, FEDIOL held a Green Claims seminar from a perspective of environmental life cycle assessment and in the broader context of the development of environmental food choice labels. The webinar aimed at supporting members' understanding of how a Green Claims directive may work and how it may impact the business of supplying ingredients to the manufacturers of composite food products (e.g. refined vegetable oils) and the business of supplying single ingredient food products to the retail market (e.g. bottled oils).
- The June 2024 event gave several external experts a platform for sharing experience with the potential of plant-breeding to help meet demand for reduced environmental impact. It also gave participants a flavour of how to transition towards a more sustainable food system and how to address the challenge of climate smart consumption.

The FEDIOL Insider, a newsletter published three times a year for members, featured highlights on the individual initiatives related to the Code or to the FEDIOL implementation action plan.

Information on actions related to the Code of Conduct has been added to the dedicated webpage, which was set up within the FEDIOL website to illustrate the different actions implemented in support of the Code's aspiration. This ensures a one-stop reference for members and non-members.

3. Encourage members to align sustainability actions and/or business practices to the aspirational objectives and targets of the Code and invite them, on a voluntary basis, to adhere to this Code

Aspirational objective 1: Healthy, balanced and sustainable diets for all European consumers. - b) A food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets, ... and in particular: Provide transparent, voluntary product information to consumers, e.g. through digital means.

In 2023/2024 FEDIOL continued its work on nutrition-related communications aimed at supporting better consumption of oils through information on oils and fats targeting consumers through opinion leaders. The dedicated [vegetable oils website](#) which has been developed over 2022 has been updated in the course of 2023. It continues to support sustainable consumption through enhanced availability of oils related information on the role of vegetable oils and fats and their nutrition, safety and functionality aspects.

The website will be subject to a more thorough revamping which should also lead to a better visibility in 2024. In addition, work was done with a view to addressing common erroneous assumptions regarding oils and nutrition. These myths addressed in coordination with EUFIC (European Food Information Council) led to shedding some light on nutrition facts. Additional work will be continued in this in 2024-2025.

4. Explore the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this Code

4.1 Aspirational objective 3: A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050. - Reducing net emissions from own operations, contributing to a 55% GHG emission reduction target in the EU food chain by 2030 (following a science-based approach)

Having recognized that to support a decarbonization effort, it can be beneficial to understand the starting point, in the course of 2022, FEDIOL members agreed to voluntarily collect company data. This was undertaken under confidentiality and anonymity rules, for CO2 emissions by the installation (scope 1) as well as emissions due to electricity or steam used that is produced by a third party (scope 2). The first [FEDIOL results of the CO2 emissions monitoring exercise](#) were obtained in 2023 and were shared on the FEDIOL website. The collected data spanned from 2019 to 2022, per ETS and non-ETS installation. Nine companies participated in this first exercise, a number of these covering multiple production sites, large and medium-sized.

Early 2024, FEDIOL experts decided to launch the collection of 2023 data. In the meantime, there are 13 companies participating in the exercise. FEDIOL added up the CO2 emissions of the individual installations to come to the aggregated emissions by all the FEDIOL installations participating in the monitoring programme and also added up the amounts of oilseeds processed to come to an aggregated number of products processed. The aggregated number of CO2 emissions and of products processed gives an indication of CO2 emitted per weight unit of product.

4.2 Aspirational objective 6: Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership –

b) Continued progress towards sustainable production, contributing to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 and improved animal welfare – by stimulating sustainable production

New legislation in the sustainability field, in particular the EU deforestation regulation (EUDR) and the related high degree of uncertainty around the concrete understanding of its requirements, pushed FEDIOL to focus an important part of its capacity in supporting members' implementation work. Although some FEDIOL companies have long practiced due diligence, it is a new feature in law in our supply chains. The uncertainty which is inherent to the due diligence system and the associated obligation of delivery put considerable pressure on operators. This led FEDIOL to draft recommended common practices for businesses along the supply chain as a guidance for members on how to prepare, adjust practices and implement the regulation which has to be applied as of 30 December 2024. This exercise is still ongoing and awaits clarification from Member States and the Commission to be able to finalise the work. This urgent work related to new the regulation took precedence and blocked human and financial capacity over other voluntary actions in the sustainability field.

FEDIOL resumed the monitoring of the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil and produced a factsheet reporting about the state of play. Similarly, the monitoring of responsible soy has been up-dated (soy compliant with FEFAC soy sourcing guidelines). FEDIOL also co-sponsored the [European Soy Monitor](#) 2021 together with other EU organisations with the objective of providing a tool to enhance understanding about the soy supply chain transformations towards more sustainable practices.

4.3 Aspirational objective 4: An optimised circular and resource-efficient food chain in Europe - a) Improving resource-efficiency within own operations - Consider the use of environmental footprint or other Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodologies for products and/or companies to measure impacts.

Although the [FEDIOL Life Cycle Assessment using EU Product Environmental Footprint](#) was concluded in June 2022, this work triggered some follow up activities. In the framework of the updating process of the Environmental Footprint (EF) database, FEDIOL was asked to indicate whether the EF data sets were relevant and whether datasets were missing. FEDIOL shared the excel file with the Life Cycle Inventory of its PEF project with the Consortium in charge of the EF database update. Agreements were also made to share the FEDIOL data with service providers supporting companies' LCA work.

5. Continue to engage in dialogue with other food chain/systems actors and EU and international policy-makers

FEDIOL continued exchanging regularly with numerous EU and non-EU associations and stakeholders, which cannot all be listed, on various Code of Conduct relevant matters.

As part of Primary Food Processors (PFP) FEDIOL contributed to the joint awareness raising and educational activities reported under the PFP report to the Code of Conduct.