

CC(21):1 – FG/na

Ms Claire Bury
Deputy Director General
DG SANTE
BE-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 2nd July 2021

Re: Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices

Dear Deputy Director-General,

Copa and Cogeca are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative, and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 22 million farmers and their family members whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives.

We took an active part, with a cooperative spirit, in the discussions that led to the publication of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices. We acknowledge that collaboration between different food system actors will be needed to address challenges in an integrated and effective way.

Since the beginning of this process European farmers and agri-cooperatives have highlighted that it is fundamental that this Code of Conduct promotes farmers and their cooperatives' competitiveness, improves the functioning of the markets while contributing to a more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable agri-food sector. It must be recognised that there are various production methods which bring additional benefits from a sustainability point of view.


We are pleased to inform you that Copa and Cogeca will sign the Code of Conduct and support the relevant aspirations set out therein towards sustainable food systems. We will support and contribute to the aspirational objectives set out in the Code.

Nevertheless, we would like to refer to some provisions/aspects of the Code that would need to be considered further to ensure an effective and satisfactory implementation process:

- The current version of the Code does not reflect that there are various degrees of sustainability and sticks to the principle that food systems are either sustainable or non-sustainable.
- The dedicated website of the Code should be set-up and managed by the European Commission services in order to ensure an efficient and transparent information and reporting process. This should not be the responsibility of the signatories of the Code.
- The task of the European associations to provide, on an annual basis, a report of their activities in support of this Code and its aspirations set out therein should be workable and in line with the activities of such associations.

We are fully committed to continue our participation in reaching the objectives of the Code.

Thank you for your consideration!


Secretary-General of Copa and Cogeca