



EU Commission / CoC for the food sector

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Possible roles of a Code of Conduct



Link to international frameworks like SDGs and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Worst case scenario:

„Paper tiger“

- Not connected to daily operations / sourcing practices
- Unclear, unprecise requirements
- Contains too many preconditions
- Contempt of requirements without any consequences



Best case scenario:

“Impactful module of an CSR/sustainable supply chain management concept”

- Widely known, used + helpful, “CoC Allrounder”
- Promotes cultural change of habits, mind set, knowledge
- Promotes a “Walk the talk” + “Stewardship”-Spirit
- Promotes a systematic change along the whole supply chain



Possible ranges of a Code of Conduct



High-level mission statement

- With focus on SGDs that are relevant for food industry
- Integration of ILO Labour Standards
- ...

High level of ambition regarding

- goal setting (e.g. SBTS)
- SMART goal definition
- Monitoring of progress
- Reporting of progress
- Equivalent decision parameter besides price, reliable delivery and quality
- Binding part of negotiations/contracts
- Part of an encompassing management system
- ...



Key factors for transformational change in the food value chain

1. Buying department / Role of mind set and given incentives

- Change and enhancement of procurement policies
- Sustainability criteria as inherent part – as **equivalent** decision parameter besides price, reliable delivery and quality

2. Sustainable supplier management

- Supply chain transparency
- Supplier(s) transparency
- Sustainable supplier management
- Cooperative and long-term supplier collaboration

3. Cultural change

- Awareness raising + overall goal setting: saving/restoring/boosting natural resources of our planet as basis of all life + business models
- One planet thinking for economy and society (according to planetary boundaries /Rockström et al. 2009)

4. Resilience thinking

- Building enterprise resilience means to understand and invest in resilience of ecosystems and stable societies (Beermann 2012)



Food for inspiration

based on 10 year`s of intense partnership with Germany`s biggest retailer EDEKA/netto/budni

Overall goal: reducing the ecological footprint of all approx. 8.000 private brand products (food/non-food)

Pilotprojects on farm-level for more sustainable conventional production



Soy, freshwater, biodiversity,
palm oil, wood/paper/tissue, packaging, climate,
fish/seafood, sustainable procurement
Approx. 140 goals, **third-party progress monitoring/yearly**

+ 365 days sustainability communication/marketing

