



29 July 2024

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

*A common aspirational path
 towards achieving sustainable food systems*

- Annual Report by Europatat -

- General information

Name in full + acronym	European Potato Trade Association - EUROPATAT
Contact person with contact details	Berta Redondo Benito or Romans Vorss secretariat@europatat.eu
N° in the transparency register*	16057181340-75
Date of signature of the Code	18 October 2021
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Europatat represent traders in seed and ware potatoes.
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	Europatat represents 67 members in 20 countries: 19 National associations, 41 Companies and 7 Associated members.



European Associations pledge to:

- ***endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code (where applicable)***

✓ YES.

- ***promote and disseminate this Code with(in) their constituency/ies;***

- ✓ Europatat followed the development of the Code since the first discussions were initiated. In the past year, we attended all the stakeholder meetings for Code's signatories.
- ✓ Europatat Members have been informed about the Code, its objectives and they have been invited several times to sign the Code individually with their own commitments.
- ✓ The Code has been also promoted via our communication channels (including email updates to members, publications on our website, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram). Also, we shared the news about the Code via our internal and external newsletters.

- ***encourage their members to align their 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, as appropriate;***

- ✓ In every communication made by Europatat in relation to the Code, we encouraged all our members to sign the Code. This message was also explained and repeated during the internal meetings in which the Code was presented (see point below).

- ***explore the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this Code;***

- ✓ To reply to new environmental, social and market demands and to achieve EU Green Deal's goals, Europatat created in 2022 a new Sustainability commission as a platform for internal discussion and exchange of information and best practices among potato traders. The new commission rapidly received a great support from Europatat members and, shortly after its creation, a working group (WG) on potato sustainability indicators was set up. In the past year, the WG has been meeting virtually once a month to analyse how potato companies can measure their sustainability impact according to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ The main deliverable of this task is a guiding document, which serves as an inspiring checklist for Europatat members, focusing on the UN's SDGs. The document includes a detailed analysis of each SDG, along with specific targets and indicators related to the potato supply chain. The aim of the so-called "*Sustainability Indicators - An inspirational checklist for Europatat members*" is to support and guide Europatat member's efforts to contribute to the SDGs and thus accompany them in their sustainability journey.
- ✓ The checklist was presented to all Europatat members at the physical meeting of the Sustainability commission during the Europatat Congress on 23 May in Brussels. New actions related to this deliverable will continue in 2024 and years to come.



- ***continue to engage in dialogue with other food chain/systems actors and EU and international policy-makers to forge (new) relationships, exchange good practices and discuss challenges encountered, learn from each other (studies, projects) and create better mutual understanding, and identify opportunities for collaboration and potential partnership.***

- ✓ Europatat is member of the Agri-food chain sustainability, an informal gathering of European agri-food chain industry associations with the aim of exchanging information, views, concerns, and positions on EU sustainability policy and legislation. The participants in the roundtable represent a broad spectrum of the European agri-food sector, and the roundtable is a valuable forum to learn from one another's experience. The are: AIJN - European Fruit Juice Association ; ESA - European Snacks Association ; Europatat – European Potato Traders Association ; Freshfel - European Fresh Produce Association ; FRUCOM – European federation for trade in dried fruit and nuts, processed fruit, vegetables and fishery products ; PROFEL – European Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processors. We also have FEFAC (European Feed Manufacturers' Federation) participating in the Roundtable.



On 24 January 2024, the Agri-food Chain Sustainability Roundtable organised a webinar on Corporate Sustainability Reporting which was moderated by Europatat's Secretary General Berta Redondo. The online event was an opportunity to share, discuss, and better understand how agri-food businesses are currently measuring and reporting their sustainability strategies. More than 120 participants from different sectors took part in the event, which also served to share best practices regarding sustainability actions along the entire food supply chain.

- ✓ Europatat is also part of the European Potato Value Chain coalition, which gathers other EU associations working on the potato sector (Copa-Cogeca – represents farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU, EUPPA - European Potato Processors' Association, ESA - European Snacks Association and StarchEurope). The objective is to share information and synergies on the several initiatives that are arising from the different players of the potato supply chain (e.g. regarding the reduction in the use of pesticides, food safety initiatives such as the goodfries website to reduce acrylamide when frying potatoes at home, and many other topics). One of the objectives is to facilitate the implementation of the targets posed by the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.



- ✓ Furthermore, Europatat is an active member of the [EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste](#) and a partner of the international consortium [WASTELESS](#). Launched in January 2023, the EU Horizon Europe project WASTELESS aims to develop innovative tools and methodological recommendations for measuring and monitoring food loss and food waste along the food supply chain in the EU. Europatat is part of the multidisciplinary consortium formed by 17 institutions from 14 EU countries and coordinated by UTAD (University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal). Within the project, Europatat is supporting the dissemination of project's goals, results and other key information related with food waste reduction. For more: [HERE](#).
- ✓ Last but not least, Europatat is involved in several EU-funded projects under Horizon programme which aim to help EU farmers to produce potatoes in line with EU sustainability principles, address the challenges posed by climate change and contribute towards the reduction in food waste. Here are the projects:
 - [ADAPT - Accelerated Development of multiple-stress tolerAnt PoTato](#): Its main objective is to identify the morphological, physiological and molecular changes that make different potato cultivars resilient or not to single stresses (e.g. heat, drought, flooding) and relevant combinations of these stresses. To this end, plant scientists, farmers and potato breeders participating in the ADAPT project selected 30 potato cultivars to study in controlled greenhouse experiments. For more: [HERE](#).
 - [PataFEST](#): The project focuses on sustainable Integrated Pest Management strategies to treat and control the presence of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* pest and its vector in plant, and address the incidence of soil-borne pathogens during potato postharvest storage. For more: [HERE](#).

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For information: Europatat is the European Potato Trade Association, comprising both national associations and individual companies involved in the trade of seed, ware and early potatoes throughout Europe and beyond. Our members include a wide range of traders (including breeders, distributors, storers, packers, importers and exporters) delivering seed potatoes to farmers, raw material to the food industry, and packed potatoes to the retailers and service sector.

