

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

A COMMON ASPIRATIONAL PATH TOWARDS ACHIEVING
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

STARCH EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

I GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym + Name in Full	STARCH EUROPE The European Starch Industry Association
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N° in the Transparency Register	57787966531-03
Date of Signature of Code	December 2022
Step of the Food Chain Represented	Primary Food Processors
Who do you Represent	30 member companies producing starches and derivatives, as well as 5 national associations. Full list of members can be found here: http://www.starch.eu/members

I STARCH EUROPE

The European Starch Industry Association, Starch Europe, represents the EU starch industry both at European and international level. Its membership comprises 30 EU starch producing companies, together representing more than 95% of the EU starch industry, as well as 5 national starch industry associations in 'associate membership'.

A crucial link between farm and fork, the European starch industry produces more than 15 million tonnes of high-quality ingredients, including starches and starch-derivatives, plant-based proteins and fibres, from its 71 starch production facilities in 20 EU Member States. This is extracted from over 25 million tonnes of primarily EU grown wheat, maize and starch potatoes, and serves a wide customer-base in both food, feed and industrial sectors.

Through decades of constant innovation, and the incredible versatility of starch, the European starch industry is today seen as a pioneer in the European Bioeconomy, and as a zero-waste industry making full use of every part of the agricultural raw materials used, is an essential actor driving sustainability across the agri-food value chain.

I BACKGROUND AND COMMITMENTS

Starch Europe officially became a Signatory with Commitments to the EU Code of Conduct in December 2022. Among its stated commitments were:

1. Engage and encourage its members to strive towards the decarbonisation commitments set forth in the Starch Europe Decarbonisation Roadmap, including conducting an independently verified sector-wide LCA Study in 2031;

2. Conduct its yearly Safety Programme & Awards, launched in 2014, which aims to encourage the sharing of best practices and increasing and rewarding efforts which maximise worker health and safety within its membership;
3. Promote and disseminate this Code towards its membership, and encourage their individual 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;
4. Continue to engage in dialogue with other food chain/systems actors and with EU and international policymakers to forge relationships, exchange good practices and discuss challenges encountered, learn from each other (studies, projects), create better mutual understanding, and identify opportunities for collaboration and potential partnership;

1. ALWAYS STRIVING FOR BETTER

Engage and encourage its members to strive towards the decarbonisation commitments set forth in the Starch Europe Decarbonisation Roadmap, including conducting an independently verified sector-wide LCA Study in 2031;

Starch Europe published the results of its latest sector-wide LCA Study in 2022 - its fourth such endeavour, and the widest and broadest to date. [A summary report can be found here.](#)

Seen as a stock-take to better understand the road ahead, the results of this LCA Study were used to guide and inform an ambitious way forward culminating in the publication of a sectoral Decarbonisation Roadmap 2019-2030 in October 2022. The [full Decarbonisation Roadmap](#) can be found here.

With this Roadmap, the European starch sector presented its ambition of a reduction in GHG emissions of 25% (Scope 1 & Scope 2) between 2019 and 2030, given the right policy environment and support, but also to remain transparent on progress through the publication of a follow-up Lifecycle Assessment Study in 2031 and a mid-way Progress Report.

Work began in 2023 on internal data collection on GHG emissions to properly monitor the industry's progress towards the targets set out in the Starch Industry Roadmap. The exercise of selecting an external auditor has been completed, and PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) was chosen. A first data collection exercise has been completed but has also shown that some fine-tuning of the methodology was required. Work has therefore resumed on the part of members, the Starch Europe secretariat and PWC in collaboration, to ensure that the most accurate methodology is put in place.

Internal communication has continued to remind members of the importance of achieving the targets set by the roadmap, to maximise participation in the data collection, and to continue work both on exploring ways forward to improve performance, but also to collaborate with the joint activities of the organisation..

2. SAFETY FIRST

Conduct its yearly Safety Programme & Awards, launched in 2014, which aims to encourage the sharing of best practices and increasing and rewarding efforts which maximise worker health and safety within its membership;

Starch Europe conducted its yearly Safety Awards program in 2023 and 2024, as it has uninterrupted since its inception in 2014.

The Starch Europe Safety Programme recognises the best performing EU starch plants in terms of reducing workplace accidents.

The Starch Europe Safety Programme grants two types of awards:

- The Year Award – is awarded to plants that registered no employee lost workday cases involving days away from work for the calendar year, and no employee and no non-employee workplace fatalities for the calendar year.
- The Million Hour Award – is awarded to plants which registered 1 million consecutive employee hours without an employee lost workday case and without a workplace-related fatality of an employee or non-employee during the period.

35 of the 73 starch plants in the EU represented by Starch Europe's 30 member companies, participated in the safety award scheme from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The Safety Programme and Awards will continue in 2024, where at the time of writing, data collection has begun.

The results of the 2022-2023 campaign can be found here: <https://starch.eu/starch-europe-announces-winners-of-the-2022-2023-safety-awards/>.

| 3. PROMOTE AND DISSEMINATE

Promote and disseminate this Code towards its membership, and encourage their individual 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 order to update its membership regularly on the importance of the EU Code of Conduct, but also to keep members updated on, and engaged in, the progress, STARCH EUROPE has kept both the EU Code of Conduct, but also the Decarbonisation Roadmap, regularly on the agenda of a number of its Committees and Working Groups throughout 2023 and early 2024, including:

- Executive Committee (quarterly meetings);
- General Assembly (yearly);
- Product Reputation Strategy Group (monthly calls);
- European Lobby Task Force (monthly calls);
- Environment Committee (quarterly meetings);
- Decarbonisation Roadmap Task Force (ad hoc meetings).

Starch Europe has also recently launched a new platform on their website, starch.eu, aimed at highlighting sustainability initiatives taken by its membership. This section can be found at www.starch.eu/sustainability-initiatives/, and showcases the efforts of the industry through individual, collaborative, regional or sector-wide initiatives taken to improve sustainability. This platform serves both as a reminder to its membership of commitments made through its sector-wide decarbonisation roadmap, but also is intended to act as means to highlight best practices for others to follow within the membership.

| 4. COLLABORATION

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

STARCH EUROPE works in close collaboration with other food and feed chain actors in Brussels. STARCH EUROPE is a founding member of the PRIMARY FOOD PROCESSORS association (**PFPP**), alongside the European Committee of Sugar Manufacturers, the European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry, European Vegetable Protein Association, the European Flour Millers, and the European Cocoa Association.

Through PFP, Starch Europe notably takes active part in the European Food Forum (*EFF*), an independent, politically-led, non-partisan multi-stakeholders forum led and governed by elected Members of the European Parliament, which aims to promote open dialogue on sustainable food systems among policymakers, food supply chain actors, civil society organizations, research and academia, and other public institutions..

STARCH EUROPE is also a founding member of the European Bioeconomy Alliance (*EUBA*), a unique cross sector alliance dedicated to mainstreaming and realising the potential of the bioeconomy in Europe, a crucial element in making the overall food system more sustainable. The EUBA represents about 4,700 companies (including 5,100 production sites and mills) as well as 12 million farm holdings and 16 million forest owners, and creates employment for roughly 29 million people.

STARCH EUROPE also actively engages with a number of other ad hoc alliances and collaborations with other associations up and down the supply chain as and when needed. It is also a founding member of *EFISC-GTP*, the European Feed and Food Ingredients Safety Certificate.

Finally, STARCH EUROPE is an active member of *FoodDrinkEurope*, the association representing the European food and drink producers, and a key and crucial actor in bringing the full AgriFood chain together around this EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices.

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