



The Vital Link in the Food Chain

Brussels, 28 April 2023

EU Code of Conduct on responsible food business and marketing practices

Primary Food Processors' (PFP) annual report 2023

- **General information**

Name in full + acronym	Primary Food Processors (PFP)
Contact person with contact details	Huub SCHERES info@pfp-eu.org
N° in the transparency register*	71338036982-24
Date of signature of the Code	20 December 2021
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Primary processors of agricultural raw materials
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	European Associations representing six different processing sectors (CEFS, ECA, EFM, EUVEPRO, FEDIOL, StarchEurope) and including over 4.000 companies

* if available

European Associations pledge to:

- *endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code (where applicable)*
- ✓ Yes, by signing the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Business and Marketing Practices, the Primary Food Processors (PFP) pledge to endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code of Conduct where applicable.
- ✓ PFP aims at helping members to enhance knowledge and general understanding of the challenges that our sectors are facing. Engagement with players across sectorial supply chains can contribute to identifying directions for possible sector-specific changes and transitions. In this regard, discussions within the PFP membership already support an exchange of best practices between the different sectors.
- *promote and disseminate this Code with(in) their constituency/ies;*
- ✓ The PFP member associations have continued raising awareness of their respective members about the importance of working towards the aspirational objectives of the Code.

- ✓ Throughout the year, the different governance bodies (Board, secretaries general, operational teams) discussed issues arising with the achievement of aspiration objectives and targets and how to address them with members and identify possible solutions. Activities focused on:
 - **aspirational objectives 3** (*A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050*) and the target: *Reducing net emissions from own operations, contributing to a 55% GHG emission reduction target in the EU food chain by 2030*
 - **aspirational objective 6** (*Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership*) and in particular to improve resilience and stimulate sustainable production.

- *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 October 2022, PFP held a workshop for PFP member companies to shed light on the biomass use for combustion, which some member companies have invested in to transition to use of sustainable biomass for reducing their own emissions. The online workshop addressed several aspects including the kind of biomass PFP companies use for combustion; GHG saving criterion, based on examples from oilseed crushing using sunflower hulls and sugar production using beet pulp; likely enablers from policy decisions due to accounting under ETS and sustainability provisions under RED.
- ✓ In April 2023, PFP held another workshop for PFP member companies to understand the opportunities and challenges related to soil carbon sequestration and emission reduction through a deep dive into the Commission carbon certification proposal. This workshop was not only supported by Commission DG Clima intervention, but also the participation from the farming side (COPA-COGECA). This helped understand the farmers' perspective about improving soil carbon performance, the main problems arising today as well as the key potential for reducing the industries' scope 3 emissions.
 - *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.*

- ✓ In November 2022, PFP held a Forum under the title 'Rising to the challenges of climate change and energy supplies' (**aspirational objective 3**). In a context of dramatically rising energy costs, the purpose was to discuss how to overcome pressure as primary food processing sectors are looking to intensify investments in decarbonisation. The event helped identifying certain enablers and public support, that is required to ensure that operators have enough capital available to invest in green production processes: financial support for primary food processors to tackle the impact of soaring energy costs; EU-level action to ensure that energy supplies are available and affordable following the upcoming winter. The event looked also at longer-term action and supportive regulatory framework in conjunction with other stakeholders, representatives from farmers, industry, academia, policy makers.