

9th meeting of the EU Animal Welfare Platform

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European Union



Code of conduct : Objective

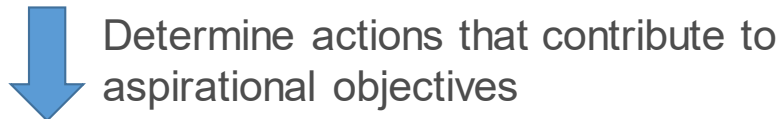
- To engage stakeholders downstream in the food supply chain with sustainable production and marketing practices and responsible business conduct.
- To tangibly **improve the environmental and social performance** mainly of the **food industry and distribution, food service and food hospitality** (but may involve other actors in the chain), building on existing good practices and front-runner examples.
- It will also seek timely commitments from food companies to take concrete actions on improving food sustainability as regards the health, environmental and social performance of their products.



Two components in Code of conduct

Component 1 = general part Code

Aspirational objectives



- Specific actions that can be practically adopted by all actors
- Go beyond current legal obligations and existing voluntary codes
- Minimizing administrative burden esp for SMEs

Monitor adherence to code

Commission will monitor overall effect F2F (incl. Code)

Component 2 = specific part Code for individual companies

Selected targets + monitoring framework



Freedom for companies how to reach targets



Monitor progress (outcome)

Process of submitting, monitoring and evaluating commitments

Companies develop **commitments**, based on / consistent with:

- the aspirational objectives and targets as identified in the general part of this Code;
 - Objectives and target F2F strategy / European Green Deal
 - Paris climate agreement (UNFCCC), CBD, UN Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Assessment of their societal impacts, for example via a Materiality assessment
- Commitments should cover environmental, social and health dimension



Submit commitment together with **motivation and proposed indicators**



Submit yearly summary report of progress on commitment
(abstract from regular company's ESG/CSR/non-financial report)



Meetings with all stakeholders to discuss progress on general part Code + on companies commitment

Potential additional / revised commitments

NB motivation letter if submitting in June 2021 can be sent later

Governance of the Code at three levels

Collaborative Platform that gathers the wide stakeholder community

- Advisory and consultative role
- Opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions with regard to the ongoing implementation of the Code
- Exchange on progress on the implementation
- Stimulate collaboration between actors (e.g. large companies coaching SMEs)
- Foster European debate and stimulate partnerships between public authorities, private entities and civil society organizations



Governance of the Code at three levels

Signatories Group

- Decision-making role
- Put forward suggestions and ideas for initiatives/topics for the collaborative platform

Liaison Group (selected group of signatories + Commission)

- Preparatory and co-ordination role
- Proposals to review and update the Code



Review of the Code

- Associations and companies provide an annual report to allow the evaluation of progress made
- Annual meetings with the wider stakeholder community where feedback and suggestions on the Code implementation can be shared
- Overall monitoring and evaluation of the Code: first evaluation scheduled for end 2022

→ Continuous improvement along the process



Flexibility for SMEs

- In submitting their commitments, SMEs can, if needed, use simpler indicators, which are more appropriate for their type of business and commitments
- Provide an annual report before end of April each year, if possible
- May provide simplified reports once every two or three years on their commitments and data corresponding to their activities



Who can sign the Code as of 16 June?

- European Associations
- Associations willing to make :
 - Concrete contributions (e.g. sector guidelines, roadmaps, studies etc..), or
 - Ambitious commitments on behalf of their members
- Individual companies with concrete ambitious commitments
- Other stakeholders: “collaborative supporters” that contribute with expertise, share best practices, ensure coherence with other sustainability initiatives, etc...



How to sign the Code now?

- Currently no template
- Send a message (e.g. an email with a document) to the Commission services:
 - For associations: intention to sign and short explanation as to their specific commitment(s)
 - For companies: intention to sign and list of commitments with some explanation as to whether it concerns existing or new commitments, and which domains of sustainability it covers



For healthy people,
healthy societies
and a healthy planet.

The Farm to Fork Strategy

IT'S DOWN TO US!

