

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

A COMMON ASPIRATIONAL PATH TOWARDS ACHIEVING
SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

STARCHEUROPE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

I GENERAL INFORMATION

Acronym + Name in Full	STARCHEUROPE 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 STARCHEUROPE

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 6 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;

The year 2022 saw Starch Europe publish the results of its latest sector-wide Lifecycle Analysis (LCA) Study - its fourth such endeavour. [A summary report can be found here.](#)

Regarded as a major achievement, this year-long industry effort of data collection and analysis - the widest and broadest to date – has generated not only a stock-take for Starch producers, but also a tool which allows starch industry customers in both food, feed and industrial sectors, to provide data on the environmental footprint of their respective products.

The results of this LCA Study were further used to guide and inform internal discussions. A Decarbonisation Roadmap Task Force, set up in anticipation of the publication of the results, began the work of looking forward, which in October 2022 led to the publication of a sectoral Decarbonisation Roadmap 2019-2030. [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% per tonne of starch (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 LCA Study in 2031 and a mid-way Progress Report.

Since the publication, the Roadmap and its targets and ambitions have remained at the forefront of discussions within Starch Europe. To ensure maximum adherence, the Starch Europe Executive Committee and secretariat organised a webinar early September 2022. This served to inform the full membership of the Roadmap, to outline the targets set out, and to answer any and all questions members might have.

Seen as an integral part of the EU starch industry's vision for a more sustainable future, the secretariat has continued to ensure that the dedicated Task Force continued its activities through even after publication.

We have also continued to play a leading part in bringing the industry together on these common targets, and have encouraged members, both through both collective and individual meetings, to continue work both on exploring innovative ways forward to continue to improve overall industry performance, but also to collaborate with the joint activities of the organisation.

2023 will see Starch Europe continue its efforts. Work will notably be carried out on setting up an internal data collection exercise on GHG emissions. This will be accompanied by internal communication to our membership both to raise awareness of the importance of collaborating to achieve the targets set by the roadmap, and on maximising participation in the data collection.

| 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 2022, as it has uninterrupted since its inception in 2014.

The Starch Europe Safety Programme and Awards form an integral part of our overall sustainability efforts.

Launched in 2014, the Starch Europe Safety Programme recognises the best performing EU starch plants in terms of reducing workplace accidents. This showcases the dedication of companies to maintain efforts to reduce the risk of accidents occurring, through the constant exchange of experience and good practices.

As has been the case over the last few years, data collected also covers contractors intervening on production sites in the evaluation, to fully reflect the efforts to secure safe working conditions for every person operating on our sites.

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.

Data is collected by the Starch Europe secretariat from companies participating on a voluntary basis. The collection of data for the exercise started on 1 July 2014. Starch Europe ensures the validity and consistency of the data provided and reports on eligible plants for each award.

23 of the 70 starch plants in the EU represented by Starch Europe's 29 member companies, participated in the safety award scheme from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

As part of the process to keep this topic high on the agenda of our members, a Safety Committee holds regular ad hoc meetings, notably to exchange best practices and share lessons learned. The Awards themselves form part of our General Assembly, the Starch Europe secretariat publish a Press Release shortly after announcing publicly the results of the year's exercise. The latest [results from 2021-2022 period can be found here](#).

The Safety Programme and Awards are slated to continue in 2023.

| 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 2022 and early 2023, 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).

| 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 (PFP) , 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.

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.

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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