Why a Code of Conduct?

• 1 of the 27 actions foreseen in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy

• **Complementary** to legislative actions

• Primarily aimed at *middle part of the chain* (food industry, retail, food service, hospitality), but also open to other stakeholders in the food chain/system

• Opportunity to **showcase Europe’s food sustainability leadership** through ambitious commitments (and progress made)
Multi-stakeholder process

- Task Force set-up beginning of 2021
- Weekly thematic meetings between end Feb and June 2021
- Food chain representatives (‘from farm to fork’), international organisations, NGOs, consumer groups, trade unions, academics, European Commission
- Rich input and debates
- Launch on 5 July 2021
1. **Common aspirations** (objectives and targets) and **indicative actions for businesses** towards sustainable food systems
2. A framework for **ambitious commitments by companies**

- All businesses, large and small, active in food systems
- Commitments:
  - Ambitious, tangible, quantitative where possible and measurable
  - EU or global
  - Focus on largest societal and environmental impact
  - Contribute to international and EU goals
  - At least up to 2025-2030 (2040/2050 for environmental aspects)
- Annual reporting can be based on ESG/corp. sustainability reports
- Lighter requirements for SMEs

**Materiality analysis:**
‘internalising’ food sustainability in business strategies
What has happened since the launch?

• Code signed by nearly all major EU food chain associations + major companies (with concrete pledges) + collaborative supporters (117 Signatories to date)

• Commission webpage: Code translations in all EU languages, update pledges, SME support

• Outreach activities:
  • July ‘21: UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) pre-summit affiliated session
  • September ‘21: UNFSS
  • October ‘21: EU Farm to Fork Conference side-event
  • Oct-Dec ‘21: EESC, EP, Council, wide variety of stakeholder events
  • Feb ‘22: EU Industry Days dedicated session

• First Signatories Group kick-off meeting on 14 December 2021
What has the Code brought about so far?

- A common, positive mindset – aligning business and F2F agendas
- Increased awareness on sustainability ambitions (incl. concrete, indicative actions) across food chain actors
- New pledges and actions (e.g. sector roadmaps)
- New collaborations among stakeholders (e.g. Pact for Skills)
- Recognition of the EU’s leading role to drive food sustainability
Collaborative Platform
- All interested stakeholders (Signatories and non-Signatories) and public authorities
- Advisory/consultative
- Meets at least once a year (around EU F2F Conference)
- Discuss progress on commitments (based on reports), stimulate interaction and partnerships, new projects and studies, etc.
- Facilitated by the EC, supported by Liaison Group

Signatories Group
- Signatories of the Code
- Code decision-making
- Organise meetings (joint events, workshops) to promote and advance the Code
- May put forward suggestions and ideas for initiatives/topics

Liaison Group
- Preparatory/co-ordination role
- Nominated individuals from Signatories Group and EC
- Prepares proposals to Signatories Group, helps organising the Collaborative Platform meetings, acts as interlocutor between EC and Signatories Group
Signatories Group

• **Organisational continuity**
  • Liaison Group = FoodDrinkEurope (Chair), EuroCoop (VC), EuroCommerce, Independent Retail Europe, UECBV/CELCAA, Copa-Cogeca

• **Participatory opportunities** for all Signatories
  • E.g. co-organisation of events/meetings

• **Pragmatic decision-making by majority**
  • Except for fundamental modifications to the Code

• **Evaluation/review** after 1 year
# Reporting requirements 2022 for Signatories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Large companies</th>
<th>SMEs</th>
<th>European Associations</th>
<th>Associations which have put forward (a) commitment(s) on behalf of their members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on <strong>progress of commitment(s)</strong></td>
<td>Report on <strong>simplified report on commitments and data corresponding to their activities</strong></td>
<td>Report of <strong>activities in support of this Code</strong></td>
<td>Report on the <strong>implementation of commitment(s)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preferably a summary with relevant extracts of the company’s latest available Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) report or Non-Financial or Corporate Sustainability Report (NFRD / CSRD) and/or any other relevant information**

**By when?**
- End of April 2022
- End of April 2022 (if not possible: end of April 2023)
- End of April 2022
  (except if a reasonable justification is provided as to why a different timing is required, in any case not exceeding 2 years)

**To whom?**

SANTE-CODE-OF-CONDUCT@ec.europa.eu

**Good to know**
- Reports will be made public on the Code’s website
- Template/guiding instructions for Signatories to follow shortly
Signatories Group Programme 2022

Themes

- 4 themes (e.g. May/June, September, ..., December - TBC)
  - Packaging
  - Food security
  - Climate change (net zero, sustainable agriculture, waste)
  - Balanced diets/nutrition

Proposed structure

- Presentation by EC on policy state of play
- Presentation by external speaker (if relevant)
- Presentation by selected signatories (1-2 topic leader)
- Exchange on enablers (link to current & upcoming policy) and potential for collaboration

Organisation

- Identification of 1-2 volunteering topic leads to help organise a thematic session with the Liaison Group
Why join the Code?

➢ Be part of the food sustainability transition
➢ Get visibility and recognition at national and EU level
➢ Expand your network and/or build alliances
➢ Share expertise and learn from others’ experience
➢ …