

Mrs Claire Bury
Deputy Director General
DG SANTE
European Commission

By e-mail

9.07.2021
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**Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business & Marketing Practices
FEFAC application for signature**

Dear Mrs Bury,

FEFAC, representing the EU manufacturers of premix & compound feed for food-producing animals, would like hereby to bring our contribution to the transition towards a more sustainable food chain by signing up to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business & Marketing Practices.

In September 2020, FEFAC issued its [Sustainability Charter 2030](#), highlighting 5 key ambitions by which the EU feed industry could contribute to more sustainable feed and livestock chains:

1. Contribute To Climate-Neutral Livestock & Aquaculture Production Through Feed
2. Foster Sustainable Food Systems Through Increased Resource & Nutrient Efficiency
3. Promote Responsible Sourcing Practices
4. Contribute to Improving Farm Animal Health & Welfare
5. Enhance the Socio-Economic Environment and Resilience of the Livestock & Aquaculture Sectors

Based on this experience, FEFAC volunteered to participate in the drafting of the Code of Conduct, as expert in Task Force 3. We are happy to see that, on many aspects, the FEFAC ambitions are perfectly in line with the aspirational objectives established in the Code of Conduct, in particular

- Aspirational objective #3: A climate-neutral food chain in Europe by 2050;
- Aspirational objective #4: An optimized circular and resource-efficient food chain in Europe;
- Aspirational objective #7: Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains.as regards aspirational objective 6 and its actions in favour of more circularity and efficiency.

As signatory of the Code of Conduct, FEFAC pledges in particular to

- Endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code(where applicable);
- Promote and disseminate this Code within its constituencies;
- Encourage its members to align 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;
- Explore the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this Code;

- Provide, on an annual basis, a report of its activities in support of this Code, which will be published on an open dedicated website;
- 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 practice, FEFAC has already delivered on some of these pledges, in particular:

- FEFAC favoured knowledge dissemination and capacity building via a series of webinars, including topics such as environmental footprinting, methane emissions from enteric digestion and animal nutrition strategies to enhance animal health & welfare;
- FEFAC developed Soy Sourcing Guidelines meant to be a benchmark for existing private standards, including criteria related to deforestation; these guidelines were developed in consultation with IDH; the International Trade Center, ITC, facilitates the independent benchmarking of existing responsible soy sourcing programmes against the FEFAC guidelines;
- The delivery of a yearly progress report is a commitment of the FEFAC Charter 2030 and FEFAC delivered in June 2021 its [first yearly report](#) on the implementation of its Charter 2030).

We fully recognize the significant potential for further improvement of the sustainability of the livestock sector. Targeted research and innovation in the feed sector will be instrumental on the road towards more sustainable food chains. FEFAC is mindful of the importance of the participation of the feed sector in a collective effort of chain partners to accelerate the pace of transition to more sustainable food chains.

Yours sincerely,

Asbjørn Børsting
President

Cc: Mrs Nathalie Chaze (Director, DG SANTE), Kristin Schreiber (Director, DG GROW), Mr Michael Scannell (Director, DG AGRI), Mrs Alexandra Nikolakopoulou, Eva Maria Zamora Escribano (Heads of Unit, DG SANTE), Fabien Santini (Deputy Head of Unit, DG AGRI).