

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

*A common aspirational path
towards achieving sustainable food systems*

- Annual Report – Check list for EU associations -

When signing the code, one of the commitments of EU associations is to provide “*on an annual basis, a report of their activities in support of this Code, which will be published on an open dedicated website*”.

In order to help EU associations to provide their annual report of activities, this document aims at providing a check list to guide associations.

- **General information**

Name in full + acronym	Fédération Européenne des Fabricants des Aliments Composés / FEFAC	
Contact person with contact details	Anton van den Brink	
N° in the transparency register*	77105321408-83	
Date of signature of the Code	9 July 2021	
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Animal feed production for food producing animals	
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	FEFAC represents 22 national Associations in 22 EU Member States as well as Associations in the UK, Switzerland, Turkey, and Norway with associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 3,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.	

* if available

European Associations pledge to:

- *endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code (where applicable)*

✓ YES

- *promote and disseminate this Code with(in) their constituency/ies;*

In the [2nd FEFAC Feed Sustainability Charter Progress Report](#) released in September 2022, FEFAC President Asbjørn Børsting makes mention of the FEFAC commitment to the Code in the introductory statement. He states that “The release of the EU Code of Conduct makes it clear that FEFAC rightly anticipated the need for the kind of proactive sustainability agenda setting and reporting what we did with the Feed Sustainability Charter 2030 as from September 2020. It allows us to continue to shape our vision that animal nutrition is part of the solution to a successful transition towards more sustainable livestock & aquaculture chains, contributing to the EU Green Deal Objectives, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and now also the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Business & Marketing Practices aspirational objectives”.

In the individual Charter chapters, FEFAC linked up its own Charter ambitions with the individual EU Code of Conduct aspirational objectives.

- *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;*

By linking the FEFAC Sustainability Charter and the EU Code of Conduct, FEFAC seeks to highlight the direct connection between the two initiatives for its membership, who are also invited to co-sign. FEFAC is aware that key leading EU compound feed manufacturers have adopted comprehensive sustainability targets at company, however there still seem to be barriers to co-signing the Code, mainly due to its B2C orientation. FEFAC would therefore recommend to draw more attention on the importance of B2B commitments within the Code’s framework, as many of the “low hanging fruits” which are required to assist with the transition towards more sustainable food systems can be “reaped” at the “pre-farm” gate level.

- *explore the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this Code;*

In June 2022 FEFAC released a publication called [Circular Feed – Optimised Nutrient Recovery Through Animal Nutrition](#), speaking directly to the aspirational objective “Enhancing circularity and resource efficiency”(6). This sets examples of resource use by the feed industry that would otherwise have become food waste. FEFAC also provides direct secretariat support to the European Former Foodstuff Processing Association (EFFPA), promoting the role animal feed for food-producing animals can play in preventing food waste. In 2023 EFFPA will co-chair the EU Food Waste Platform Action & Implementation sub-group. Both FEFAC and EFFPA are committed to increasing the amount of ‘circular feed’ used by the feed industry.

In 2022-2023 FEFAC worked on an update of its [Soy Sourcing Guidelines](#), to now include requirements on 'conversion-free soy' as an essential criterion for responsible soy schemes/programmes, supporting the Code's aspirational objective 7: Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains. The benchmarking of schemes, executed by the International Trade Centre, will take place throughout 2023. The Guidelines set a higher level of ambition than the imminent EU Deforestation Regulation. A key step to further success would be the buy-in from chain partners in the downstream as part of their own sustainable sourcing strategies. FEFAC spends considerable time and resources to the development and promotion of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines, allocating also €35.000 to the recent update.

For several years FEFAC is involved in environmental footprinting. The [PEFCR Feed for Food-Producing Animals](#) and the [GFLI Database](#) are two sector-specific tools that can be placed under aspirational objective 3: A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050. An intermediate result is that many compound feed manufacturers are engaged on the topic of reducing environmental emissions and feed strategies aimed to lower emissions are attracting interest. The projects highlighted above have required substantial resources and monetary investments. Jointly, the costs related to the projects represent close to €200.000,-. The funding has come from consortia including FEFAC, FEFAC members and feed companies, and significant parts of the funding was obtained through co-financing schemes with IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative. In 2022-2023 FEFAC has worked on the update of the PEFCR Feed methodology, including the update of the EC feed database in cooperation with DGENV, while the GFLI Database has further developed and expanded at global level now containing more than 1500 feed LCA datapoints for all major feed ingredients trade at EU and global level.

FEFAC is now investing in a new publication showcasing all documented sustainable (peer-reviewed) feeding techniques which have a demonstrable effect and impact on the improving sustainability of livestock and aquaculture systems, both at cross-sectoral and species-specific level. Approximately 30 feeding techniques have been identified and reviewed so far. The first edition of this publication will be published in June 2023 at the occasion of FEFAC's 30th Congress in Ystad, Sweden.

- *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.*

FEFAC is engaged within the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) and FAO on discussions on sustainability of feed production and its contribution to more sustainable livestock and aquaculture systems, raising the importance of the topic of circularity to a global audience. The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines have also drawn attention from continents outside Europe to be used as a possible reference in sustainable and deforestation-free soy sourcing.

The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines are used as a reference for the benchmarking programme performed by ITC (the International Trade Center, subsidiary of WTO), which

acts as independent facilitator. The second round of benchmarking carried out in 2022 resulted in 19 responsible soy sourcing schemes considered in compliance with the FEFAC SSG criteria – this has led to increased market acceptance by value chain partners represented by CGF (Consumers Goods Forum), GlobalGAP, QS (Qualität und Sicherheit) and other food and feed chain certification programmes.

On climate change impacts linked to feed and livestock production, FEFAC is in direct cooperation with COPA/COGECA and FEFANA to develop a voluntary “best practice” guidance for feed companies communicating results of environmental performance via the joint code of good compound feed labelling practice to be assessed by Member States under existing EU feed labelling rules.