

Kick-off Task Force Meeting

Code of Conduct for responsible business and marketing practices

MINUTES

10 March 2021

10:00 – 10:45 **Welcome and opening remarks, appointment of Task Force chair, vice-chair and rapporteurs**
Commission DG SANTE

- Welcomed participants and referred to a first technical meeting with a wide variety of stakeholders on 11 December 2020 as well as the High Level Launch event of 26 January and the general meeting of 23 February;
- Emphasized that this is a very important step to make food systems sustainable but that the transition needs to accelerate;
- Work on the Code of conduct is a political priority, and a high level of ambition is needed;
- Emphasized however that the Commission is aware of current difficulties due to the COVID-19 crisis but also of the very tight timeline; however the Code needs to be brought to the UN FSS pre-summit in July this year;
- Called therefore to seek the right balance whilst making the Code a significant step towards making food systems sustainable;
- Stressed again the wish of the Commission to involve many stakeholders and work in full transparency;
- Informed about the selection of the Task Force (TF) members following the survey at the meeting of 23 February, and the calendar of meetings ahead;
- Introduced the Task Force members briefly and informed about the candidates for the position of chair, vice-chair and rapporteurs for the respective thematic sessions;
- The participants endorsed FoodDrinkEurope to be appointed as Chair, Euro Coop as vice-Chair, the following organizations were appointed as rapporteurs:
 - o For thematic session 1: Euro Coop
 - o For thematic session 2: Independent Retail Europe
 - o For thematic session 3: European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade
 - o For thematic session 4: World Benchmarking Alliance
- Underscored that collectively we can all do more;
- Gave an outline of the meeting.

10:45 – 11.15 **Presentation of the process and Task Force deliverables**
Commission DG SANTE

The presentation is available on the webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork/sustainable-food-processing-wholesale-retail-hospitality-and-food-services/code-conduct_en

11.15 – 11:35 **Questions**

Questions related to:

- One Task Force member asked to be co-rapporteur for T1;
- Composition of the drafting committee: the Chair, vice-Chair, rapporteurs and the Commission will be part of the drafting committee;
- Progress reporting: this will be the task of T4 on monitoring;
- Process of drafting: call for lean process, preferably by e-mail;
- Establishment of a common platform for each TF thematic session to share documents: each thematic session will address this issue and propose a way forward.

11.45 – 12.15 **Preparatory questions for the upcoming thematic sessions**

- Chair elaborates on the process of collecting information.
- Before each Task Force meeting homework questions will be circulated to its members.
- The rapporteur will draft a summary of these inputs prior to the TF meetings, so as to promote efficient work at the meetings. The list of homework questions for the first meetings of T1, T2, T3 and T4 is available on the webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork/sustainable-food-processing-wholesale-retail-hospitality-and-food-services/code-conduct_en

12.15 – 12.30 **Conclusions** , Commission DG GROW

- Thanked participants for their participation and underlined that the goal of the meeting was to give clarity on the deliverables and on how the work was expected to be carried out.
- Reiterated the high level of ambition of COM regarding this initiative and the need for constructive discussions in each thematic session, starting the following day with 'Monitoring and Evaluation'.
- Encouraged TF members to take this opportunity to make the European agri-food business case for sustainability and to lead the way on the international scene.

End of the meeting