

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
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 Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia, Russia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 100,000 persons on app. 3,000 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;*

✓ FEFAC publicly communicated on its signatory to the Code in July 2021. FEFAC has reported on the proceedings of the Code towards its members in internal Board and committee meetings. We also kept the membership up to date with new developments through the internal newsletter. FEFAC's membership consists of national associations, who are presented with similar limitations as regards taking 'numerical commitments'.

- *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;*

In September 2020 FEFAC released its [Feed Sustainability Charter 2030](#), which includes five ambitions to support sustainable feed production. This preceded the Code and is for the moment still a bit more relevant and concrete for the FEFAC membership. The FEFAC Charter has provided a platform for our members to conceptualize their actions and commitments, specific to their national contexts. The FEFAC Charter publication includes over 40 of these individual member commitments. The FEFAC Charter has also inspired the FEFAC membership to develop their own sustainability agendas / action plans at national level, which 8 FEFAC members have done so far.

The FEFAC Charter is essential to mention as all actions FEFAC performs under the header of its Sustainability Charter also link up with FEFAC's commitment as a signatory to the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business & Marketing Practices. The five ambitions included in the FEFAC Charter cover numerous aspirational objectives included in the Code (e.g. food waste reduction, optimised circular economy, sustainable sourcing). Going forward, FEFAC expects the roll-out of its Charter activities and the Code to have synergetic effects, as in principle FEFAC is not undertaking these activities solely on the basis of its signature to the Code.

FEFAC has brought the possibility to become a Code signatory to its Steering Group members, who represent the 10 largest feed production manufacturers in Europe. FEFAC also asked its member associations to draw their member companies' attention to this possibility as well. The message delivered by the EU Commission during the development of the Code of conduct is that their main target was the "middle of the food chain" and not the upstream part. Companies therefore did not feel that their direct participation in the process as signatories had much value towards the EU Commission. This explains the low uptake of the process by feed companies. This does not mean that they have no commitment in terms of sustainability targets in parallel. In a new, more targeted invitation round they may well feel more called upon to become a direct signatory. FEFAC is aware of at least several large feed manufacturers that have comprehensive sustainability targets.

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

FEFAC already did this prior to becoming a signatory. In February 2021 FEFAC released its updated [Soy Sourcing Guidelines](#), which is a sector-specific tool to facilitate sustainable and conversion-free soy sourcing that can be placed under the Code's aspirational objective 7: Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains). As from April 2022 there have been [20 responsible soy schemes & programmes](#) that have successfully applied and passed the benchmarking process. As a result, FEFAC and ITC (the International Trade Centre) have strongly contributed to market transparency for sustainable soy sourcing.

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 countless hours of dedicated time. Jointly, the costs related to the projects represent close to €200.000,-. The funding has come from consortia containing FEFAC, FEFAC members and feed companies, and significant parts of the funding was obtained through co-financing schemes with IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative.

- *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 knows that with its Sustainability Charter it has inspired other to start working on their own Sustainability Charters, although it is hard to take public credit for that.

In the past year, FEFAC organized a [series of Charter webinars](#), which brought together several EU chain partners on topics related to sustainability

- 12 April 2021: Managing Methane Emissions in Livestock Farming; with participation and support from EDA and UECBV (aspirational objective 3: A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050)
- 19 May 2021: Animal Health and Welfare: What role for Animal Nutrition?; in collaboration with FEFANA and with participation of Copa-Cogeca (aspirational objective 6: Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership)
- 31 March 2022: Circular Feed - The future potential of nutrient recovery through animal nutrition; with participation of EFFPA, IPIFF, ESPP and EABA.

On sustainable sourcing, FEFAC has been actively promoting its Soy Sourcing Guidelines towards its EU livestock value chain partners (including retailers), as a means to facilitate cross-sectoral commitments on responsible soy sourcing. So far no other EU associations have made public reference to recognizing the use of the Soy Sourcing Guidelines unfortunately.