

Brussels, 29 April 2022

**EU Code of Conduct on  
Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices**  
*A common aspirational path towards achieving sustainable food systems*

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Primary Food Processors (PFP) is the association for the European primary food processing industry to the European institutions and international organisations. The primary food processing industry uses around 220 million tonnes of agricultural raw commodities (cereals, sugar beet, rapeseeds, soybeans, sunflower seeds, crude vegetable oil, starch potatoes, cocoa beans...) a year, employing over 120,000 people in Europe.

PFP members form a vital link in the food chain, delivering efficiently produced, high quality safe food for our customers and the consumer. The quality and safety of both agricultural raw materials and end products is paramount to our industries.

**General information**

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name                               | Primary Food Processors (PFP)                                                                                                                          |
| Contact person                     | Gary Sharkey, President<br><a href="mailto:info@pfp-eu.org">info@pfp-eu.org</a>                                                                        |
| N° in the transparency register    | 71338036982-24                                                                                                                                         |
| Date of signature of the Code      | 20 December 2021                                                                                                                                       |
| Step of the food chain represented | Primary processors of agricultural raw materials                                                                                                       |
| Who do we represent?               | European Associations representing six different processing sectors (CEFS, ECA, EFM, EUVEPRO, FEDIOL, StarchEurope) and including over 4.000 companies |

**Primary Food Processors (PFP) pledge to:**

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

By signing the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Business and Marketing Practices, the Primary Food Processors pledge to endorse the aspirational objectives set out in this Code of Conduct where applicable.

The PFP structure and membership (based on different sectors with no individual secretariat structure) is specific to this organization and determines also the actions that can be carried out. PFP can help its members to enhance knowledge and general understanding of the challenges that our sectors will be facing and can possibly provide directions for possible sector-specific engagement with players across sectorial supply chains. In this regard, discussions within the PFP membership already support an exchange of best practices between the different sectors.

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

Since the signature of the Code at the end of 2021, discussions started within the PFP governance, at management and technical level, about different activities that could be launched in support of the aspirational objectives.

The associations that are members of PFP have informed their respective members about the purpose of the Code and the implications of signing the Code.

- *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;*

One of the activities decided in the early days of 2022 was the organisation of a **PFP on-line workshop on the reduction greenhouse gas emissions in industrial sites** with the sub-title: *A climate neutral Europe by 2050 - reducing net emissions from own operations, contributing to a 55% GHG emission reduction target in the EU food chain by 2030*. Addressed to environmental managers of PFP member companies, the on-line event took place on the 25 April with over 50 participants from the PFP sectors.

The event was an opportunity to actively introduce the PFP membership to Code of Conduct on responsible food business and marketing and to underline the need for designing a common journey towards a sustainable food system. The active involvement of representatives from DG Clima and DG Energy helped design a programme related to EU climate and energy policy with a focus on the role of biomass in decarbonising the industry, on the recent Commission

communication on sustainable carbon cycles and carbon farming and on the role of on-site renewable generation.

Considering the challenge of decarbonising the food industry, showing concrete examples of how to enhance energy efficiency, on the role for biomass use, electrification, hydrogen offered valid incentives for companies' representatives to enhance or share their know-how and engage with experts on these topics.

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

Since the beginning of this year, following the signature of the Code, the assessment of possible action in support of the Code is underway and will be continued within the PFP membership.

- *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.*

As primary processors situated in the middle of the food chain, PFP has a long-standing practice of cooperation with up-stream actors (farmers, suppliers, commodity traders) and downstream (food processors, traders) and is actively considering how to build on this experience.

Most notably, PFP has been working closely with a coalition of associations (Cogen Europe and industrial Combined Heat & Power users such as the steel, pulp and paper, and chemicals sectors) on the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive. Moreover, in relation to the Renewable Energy Directive, PFP organised meetings with several MEPs and/or their assistants to present PFP's positions and amendments to provide additional tools in support of the decarbonisation of our industries.