

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON RESPONSIBLE FOOD BUSINESS AND MARKETING PRACTICES

*A common aspirational path
towards achieving sustainable food systems*

COCERAL 2022 Annual Report

- General information**

Name in full + acronym	COCERAL - European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply
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N° in the transparency register*	2050009628-31
Date of signature of the Code	July 2021
Step of the food chain represented (ex: primary production, production, processing, trade, retail, ...)	Trade
Who do you represent? (e.g. number of members, companies, SMEs)	20 national trade associations in 16 countries and 12 company members (SMEs to large companies). Overall, COCERAL represents 3000 companies in the EU, Switzerland and the UK.

* if available

European Associations pledge to:

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

COCERAL endorses the seven aspirational objectives set out in the Code with focus on the following objectives as relevant to our sector:

2. Prevention and reduction of food loss and waste *(at consumer level, within internal operations, and across value chains)*

- A 50% reduction of per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030 and reduced food losses along the food production and supply chains in the EU
- 3. A climate neutral food chain in Europe by 2050
 - Reducing net emissions from own operations, contributing to a 55% GHG emission reduction target in the EU food chain by 2030 (following a science-based approach)
- 6. Sustainable value creation in the European food supply chain through partnership
 - a. Improved resilience and competitiveness of companies operating at any point along the food value chain by 2030
 - b. Continued progress towards sustainable production, contributing to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 and improved animal welfare
- 7. Sustainable sourcing in food supply chains
 - a. Transformed commodity supply chains which do not contribute to deforestation, forest degradation and destruction of natural habitat in by 2030 and which preserve and protect high value ecosystems and biodiversity
 - b. Improved social performance in (global) food supply chains
- *promote and disseminate this Code with(in) their constituency/ies;*

Prior to the finalization of the Code, COCERAL informed its members of the discussions in the Task Forces and the different drafts available of the aspirational objectives. Per these discussions, members agreed that COCERAL signs the Code. Following the signature, COCERAL discussed internally the possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources in support of this 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;*

Upon the signature of the Code, COCERAL reminded members of the seven aspirational objectives. Many members already adhere to several of these objectives in their business actions and decisions. Furthermore, COCERAL informed its company members of the possibility of signing the Code directly. Several companies, members of COCERAL, have signed the Code, at launch or during the first year of its implementation.

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

The possibility of developing sector-specific tools and resources was discussed internally and next steps still needed to be agreed. However, due to the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the work was delayed. COCERAL will take up the discussion again later this year.

- *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.*

COCERAL and its members have pledged to five United Nation Sustainable Development Goals:

- Sustainable Development Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”: Agri commodities trading companies greatly contribute to food security by moving agricultural raw materials and ingredients from areas of surplus to areas of deficit and by carrying commodities all along the year between two harvests.
- Sustainable Development Goal 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” Coceral members are taking steps to upgrade the infrastructure supporting supply chains so as to increase resource efficiency, and make them more sustainable.
- Sustainable Development Goal 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”: The sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources is an integral part of agri commodities supply chains, with operators constantly seeking to reduce their environmental footprint.
- Sustainable Development Goal 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact” Coceral members commit to integrate targeted measures into their strategies and planning in order to decrease the impact of their activities on climate change.
- Sustainable Development Goal 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”: The operators’ members of Coceral recognise their responsibility towards terrestrial ecosystems, and aim at constantly improving their sourcing in a more sustainable and responsible manner.

In line with these SDGs objectives, the EU trade of grain and oilseed is committed to playing its part in meeting global sustainability goals and in concluding partnerships for achieving sustainability goals.



COCERAL has an ongoing partnership with FEDIOL and FEFAC under the EU Grain Chain, focusing on sustainable sourcing of grain and oilseed, and on the Proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products, published by the Commission in November 2021.