

CIAA messages in view of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

The European food and drink industry, represented by CIAA, calls upon governments gathered at the UNFCCC COP-15 Conference in Copenhagen on 7 - 18 December 2009, to undertake all efforts to enable a legally binding, environmentally effective and globally equitable international agreement on climate change, covering the period 2013-2050. An ambitious agreement is needed to adequately address the dual global challenge of food security and climate change. EU industries are part of the solution to this challenge and require a level-playing-field at international level. Developing countries must be granted adequate long-term support for both mitigation and adaptation.

1. Climate change and the food and drink industries:

Food security and climate change will be two of this century's key global challenges. Both are intrinsically linked. Every day, about 500 million EU citizens and 6,8 billion people worldwide rely on high quality food for their **subsistence, nutrition, health and well-being**. The world population is expected to increase to about 9 billion people by 2050 (UN 2008). Predictions of future food demand suggest necessary increases in food production of at least 50%.

The food and drink sector, in providing this vital nutritional contribution to humankind, crucially depends on healthy eco-systems in which its raw materials are grown. The sector is particularly vulnerable to the harmful consequences of climate change on the availability of agricultural raw materials, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Climate change is expected to have a profound impact on food production (IPCC 2007a). Rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns and more frequent extreme events will increasingly affect **agricultural productivity**. While climate change will affect different regions in a different manner, effects such as extreme heat, drought, salinity and flooding (IPCC 2007b) will exacerbate stresses on crop plants and will effect soil fertility, water availability and the incidence of pests, diseases and weeds.

The industry shares a strong common interest with policy makers, consumers and society worldwide to create an **environmentally effective and globally equitable legal framework on climate change** which will enable the sector to deliver continuous cuts in GHG emissions without compromising its vital contribution to the nutritional, economic and social wellbeing of a growing world population. The importance of this balance is recognised in Article 2 of the UN Convention on Climate Change. It must also form a central part of a new UN agreement.

A legally-binding global agreement on climate change is also crucial for preserving the international **competitiveness of the EU manufacturing sector**, including the food and drink industries. EU policies have to support exposed EU industry sectors in remaining competitive *inside* Europe. Globally effective climate change policies require a globally equitable treatment of sectors subject to international competition.

The **EU food and drink manufacturing industry** accounts for about 1,5% of total EU-27 GHG emissions. Between 2003 and 2007 the sector's direct GHG emissions from food and drink processing fell by 12,6%. The industry is actively committed to continuously reducing its own emissions in support of the EU's targets for 2020 and to contributing in an equitable manner to the required long-term GHG emission cuts for 2050.

The food and drink industry is also working closely with its **food chain partners**, including suppliers to agriculture, farmers, retailers and consumers, recognising the importance of tackling GHG emissions across the full life cycle of food production and consumption. The large-scale roll out of low-carbon technology and practices as well as increased investment in R&D and eco-innovation hold the potential for significant long-term cuts in GHG emissions. Consumers play a key role in mitigating climate change too, e.g. through their purchasing decisions and the way they prepare food and avoid food waste. The voluntary provision of scientifically reliable and consistent environmental information will support them in this role.

2. The required elements of a global agreement:

a) A legally binding, environmentally effective and globally equitable long-term framework:

In view of the UNFCCC COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen and subsequent international negotiations, the EU food and drink industries call for a legally binding, environmentally effective and globally equitable agreement to prevent the adverse consequences of climate change. All countries must sign up to long-term global action and a continuous political process to monitor progress towards the global objectives. The agreement must establish a global emissions cap and reduction pathway for all GHG emissions for the period 2013 to 2050. These targets must ensure global GHG concentrations are stabilised below critical thresholds as established by science (IPCC). All sectors must contribute equitably to long-term reduction targets, whereby efficiency and cost-effectiveness should be a key consideration for policy makers.

b) Long-term legal certainty for low-carbon investment:

A legally binding, long-term policy framework on climate change is necessary to provide companies with legal certainty for their business operations and with the right incentives for large scale investment in low-carbon technologies, products, services and infrastructure. Prevailing uncertainty as to the future direction of global climate policies would undermine industry's ability to invest profitably and to innovate.

c) Binding commitments by all developed countries:

All developed countries must commit to binding emission reduction targets which are equally strong in terms of the quantitative reductions and financial efforts needed.

d) Binding commitments from developing countries:

With a view to mitigate climate change effectively, all countries have to act in line with the principles of common but differentiated climate protection responsibilities, and of action based on respective capabilities (as agreed under UNFCCC).

e) A global level playing field for internationally traded goods:

Healthy international competition for industry needs to be safeguarded on a global level. A process must be started so that industrial sectors exposed to international competition have equivalent obligations. If a comprehensive, legally binding, global agreement cannot be reached in Copenhagen, it is essential that EU policy makers implement adequate support measures for EU industries in order to ensure the required cuts in GHG emissions in the EU while ensuring a level-playing field globally.

f) Transparent financial support schemes for developing countries:

Successful climate change mitigation in developing countries critically depends on adequate financial support for the transfer of low-carbon technologies and management practices across all economic sectors. Market-based mechanisms – like the current CDM – must be improved and strengthened.

g) A strong global regime for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV):

All countries worldwide must sign-up to a strong universal MRV regime for all major economic sectors, including land-use and forestation. An enforceable sanction mechanism for non-compliance with reduction commitments must also be established.

h) Effective global adaptation strategies for main affected sectors:

In addition to mitigation, the negative effects of climate change, require an effective adaptation strategy in all affected sectors, including notably agriculture.

3. Aspects of specific relevance to the food and drink sector:

a) Climate change and agriculture:

Agriculture lies at the heart of meeting the dual objective of ensuring global food security while mitigating climate change. By 2050, agriculture will have to produce substantially higher levels of worldwide output while facing exacerbated stresses on crop plants and achieving continuous reductions in GHG emissions per produced unit.

The main environmental linkages between agriculture and climate change are 3-fold:

- First, agriculture is a source of GHG emissions, including CO₂ and non-CO₂ gases like methane and nitrous oxide. It represents about 9% of total EU-27 GHG emissions and about 14% of total global GHG emissions.
- Second, agriculture can positively contribute to mitigating climate change by binding carbon in soil and biomass.
- Third, climate change will adversely impact global agricultural productivity.

Both mitigation of GHG emissions and adaptation to climate change in agriculture should form an integral part of the new UN agreement. Both require adequate, long-term financial support, in particular in developing countries, and increased R&D worldwide. At the same time, the new UN agreement must recognise that agriculture delivers a wide range of ecosystem services and that agriculture and agriculture-related industries, such as the food and drink industries, make a vital contribution to the nutritional, economic and social wellbeing of communities worldwide.

b) Mitigation in agriculture:

Mitigation strategies in agriculture include a broad range of techniques, such as improved farming practices, including fertiliser and agricultural input use, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, livestock and manure management and the production of biogas through anaerobic digestion. While many of these techniques are already widely practiced, others require increased R&D efforts and practical experience to promote their technical viability and dissemination as future general practice.

The food and drink industry is pro-actively engaged in the definition and implementation of best agriculture practices worldwide, for instance through the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform and a range of commodity specific sustainability schemes (e.g. for palm oil, soy, coffee, tea, life-stock).

The EU farming sector has delivered major reductions in GHG emissions since 1990. In the same time, worldwide emissions from farming rose by nearly 17%. Food supply chains are global and low-carbon technologies and practices must be disseminated worldwide, including to developing countries. This requires long-term financial support, technology transfer and capacity building in order to help local farming communities reduce emissions and conserve natural resources.

c) Adaptation in agriculture:

Independent of international mitigation efforts, the adverse effects of climate change over the next decades, such as heat waves, changes in rainfall patterns and water availability, will directly affect agricultural productivity. These adverse impacts require effective adaptation policies at all levels, including managerial, infrastructural and technical measures, knowledge transfer and the establishment of relevant partnerships. All countries will have to draw up adaptation strategies and adequate financial support schemes should be foreseen under the new UN agreement.

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CIAA represents the European food and drink manufacturing industries, a central pillar of the EU economy, which serves approximately 500 million consumers with a vast variety of safe and high quality products. It is the largest manufacturing sector in Europe, with a turnover of €913 billion in 2007 and provides direct employment to over 4 million people. CIAA's mission is to represent the industry's interests at the level of EU and international institutions in order to contribute to a policy framework supporting the competitiveness of industry, food quality and safety, consumer protection and environmental sustainability. CIAA membership is made up of 23 national federations, including 3 observers, 29 European sector associations and 22 major food and drink companies.



Avenue des Arts, 43 • B-1040 Bruxelles

Tel.: +32 2 514 11 11 • Fax: +32 2 511 29 05 • E-mail: ciaa@ciaa.be • Web: <http://www.ciaa.be>