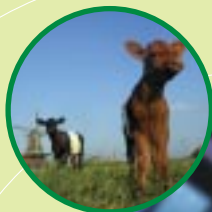


MEMORANDUM

of the European
food and drink industry
to the Dutch Presidency
of the EU



CIAA

Confédération des industries agro-alimentaires de l'UE
Confederation of the food and drink industries of the EU



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Confederation of the food and drink industries of the EU

The CIAA is the voice of the EU food and drink industry – the largest industrial sector in the European Union. Our mission is to represent the Food and Drink Industry to the European and International institutions, to contribute to the development of a legislative framework combining competitiveness of industries, food quality, consumer protection and respect of the environment.

CIAA membership is made up of 23 national federations of the EU and Norway, 33 European sector associations and food & drink companies grouped in a Liaison Committee.

Manufacturers from all the countries of the European Union provide broad and in-depth expertise through CIAA expert groups and policy committees, establishing policy guidelines, which are aimed at a Community or international audience.

The CIAA in Brussels executes policy guidelines and keeps relevant contacts at EU level and world-wide.

As a result of its longstanding work in the international field, the CIAA has become a favoured partner of Community institutions on horizontal food issues including food safety, nutrition and health, novel foods, labelling, the environment, the Common Agricultural Policy, international trade issues and enlargement.

The CIAA fulfils its role as a leader in the representation of EU food manufacturers by:

- **helping the industry to maintain consumer confidence;**
- **establishing close and fruitful co-operation between all links in the food chain;**
- **ensuring maximum co-ordination of the varied sectoral and geographical groups that make up the EU food and drink industry.**

Please visit our website at: <http://www.ciaa.be>

THE FOOD & DRINK INDUSTRY IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE :

- is the leading manufacturing sector in Europe with a turnover of about 700 billion euros per year;
- offers 450 million consumers in an enlarged Europe a wide range of safe, wholesome, enjoyable, nutritious and affordable food and drink products;
- employs more than 4 million people.



Brussels/ Den Haag, May 2004

The Netherlands has been given the challenging task of guiding the first steps of an EU enlarged to 25 Member States in all its cultural and political diversity.

We regard enlargement as an opportunity to give a new impetus to European integration and to create the necessary conditions to boost competitiveness in the light of the Lisbon objectives.

A number of the priorities of the Dutch Presidency, in the fields of innovation, competitiveness, food safety and legislation, trade, agriculture policy, environment and sustainable development to name but a few, have a direct impact on the development and competitiveness of the EU food and drink industry.

This memorandum aims to highlight the position of the European food and drink industry on what it considers as its main priorities.

With this memorandum, the CIAA wishes to take an active and constructive part in the debate on food and drink and to contribute to the success of the Dutch Presidency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean Martin' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jean Martin
President of the CIAA

CIAA PRIORITIES ON THE AGENDA OF THE EU PRESIDENCY



EU agricultural policy

The CIAA welcomed the agreement reached by EU Agriculture Ministers at the end of June 2003 as a major breakthrough for the agri-food sector. It is in line with the long term objective of the EU food and drink industry to promote a competitive, efficient and more sustainable agriculture in Europe.

The decoupling provisions retained by the Council represent a decisive step towards the opening of the European agricultural sector to market forces. The CIAA notes, however, that the relatively complex outcome is unlikely to bring the expected simplification of agricultural policy instruments. In addition, Member States have to make choices regarding the implementation of decoupling. It will be important to monitor these developments and ensure that they do not ultimately result in distortion of competition within the EU. The CIAA welcomes the fact that the payment of decoupled aid will be linked to the respect of EU regulatory requirements and of good agricultural conditions and supports the reinforcement of rural development measures.

The concept of decoupling is also being used for the reform proposals that were recently approved by the Council. This overall orientation towards a competitive, environmentally friendly and quality oriented farming sector which continues to be implemented more widely within the CAP goes in the right direction.

- For the food and drink industry, the CAP should achieve two major objectives: guarantee supply and improve competitiveness.
- The June 2003 agreement on CAP reform was an important breakthrough. The new orientation given to the CAP, including decoupling, cross-compliance and reinforcement of rural development are overall welcomed. Flexibilities granted to Member States may prove to be a matter of concern for the food and drink industry.

Sustainable agriculture

The CIAA strongly supports the improvement of mainstream agricultural production conditions with a view to moving in the direction of increased sustainability. In order to pursue this path, agricultural and rural policies should encourage the sustainable development of farming activities.

Agricultural and rural policies should determine standard requirements and also offer a framework within which private or public initiatives can develop that go beyond regulations as regards farming practices, socio-economic criteria, respect for the environment and animal welfare.

Companies in the food and drink sector have joined forces and set up the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform with the aim of developing and promoting worldwide the use of good agricultural practices.

Sustainable agriculture is a productive, competitive and efficient way to produce agricultural products, while at the same time protecting and improving the natural environment and the social and economic conditions of local communities. The concept of sustainable agriculture is flexible. It needs to allow for constant evolution and improvement.

- Agricultural production conditions have to move in the direction of increased sustainability;
- The CIAA welcomes initiatives, such as the SAI Platform, which provide for an approach and support for the development of sustainable farming practices.

Quality of agricultural production

The CIAA considers it essential to separate the concept of food safety from that of quality. Food safety is of fundamental importance to the food and drink industry and should be based on strict Community legislation.

Quality must be subject to evaluation by the market, and should not be addressed through any regulatory prescription. The consumer will express his or her confidence and appreciation by repeated purchase of the product. Encouragement for farmers who wish to participate in Community or national quality schemes is helpful, but must be strictly limited in time.

The CIAA considers that organic products target niche markets. Even if these products meet a growing consumer demand, they are a small proportion of those offered on the market. The development of organic production has to be driven by the market with the support of a reliable labelling and control regime.

- In the up-coming discussion on an action plan for organic production, it should not be overlooked that the consumer is ultimately deciding about the "quality" of a product that fits his / her specific needs and taste.



EU enlargement

The CIAA welcomes the accession of 10 new members to the European Union on 1st May 2004. New Member States have accomplished the difficult task of transposing EU food law.

Efforts will still be required from establishments that have been granted transitional arrangements in order to up-grade their food processing sites. It will be crucial to ensure effectively that products from these establishments in transition do not circulate outside their local markets.

The CIAA has been actively engaged in giving support to the reinforcement of the role and structures of federations in the food and drink sector within the CEECs through its

participation in the "Business Support Programme" (Phare) financed by the European Commission. The follow-up Programme focussing on the implementation, enforcement and diffusion of the EU acquis in new Member States is underway and foresees a number of actions at least until the end of the year.

- Efforts must be intensified to up-grade facilities to EU standards and to respect commitments and transitional arrangements;
- Continued vigilance will be necessary on the new EU external frontiers;
- Negotiations with remaining candidate countries need to apply the same strict principles as regards food legislation, notably food safety.

Promotion of agricultural products

The new Community policy, organised under two regulations, one for promotion in third countries and one for promotion on the internal market, has now been implemented for two years. In a report to the EP and the Council, the Commission takes stock of the actions undertaken and proposes some amendments to the regime.

The CIAA shares the outcome of the Commission analysis and considers that the current regime should continue and its main features should be maintained. The industry welcomes proposed administrative simplification and some flexibility that the Commission envisages. It should encourage professional organisations to present interesting programmes. In addition, a diversification of eligible countries and products is also an important issue.

- For the food and drink industry, the EU promotion policy is a useful instrument aimed, in particular, at strengthening the presence of Community food and drink products in competitive third country markets.
- It is essential that implementation provisions do not jeopardise the efficiency of this tool.

WTO agricultural negotiations

The failure of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference to deliver tangible results represented a major setback for the multilateral process.

After Cancun, the CIAA reaffirmed its commitment to the multilateral process and its support for a rules-based multilateral trading system that promotes improved market access and defines clearer and fairer agricultural trade rules. It should also create a framework that benefits and secures agro-industrial investments.

The CIAA welcomes the new momentum gained in the re-launched negotiation process. The CIAA urges WTO members to reach by the end of July a balanced framework agreement on agriculture - as part of a single undertaking - that is coherent throughout the three pillars. During the course of past discussion on a draft declaration, a number of issues raised particular concerns as to the impact on the competitiveness of the EU food and drink industry. In particular, setting, at this stage, an end-date for the use of all export refunds and defining additional disciplines on non trade-distorting green box support are not acceptable. Annual linear reductions of blue box measures could pose a problem for pending EU reforms and should preferably be kept within certain limits.

The development dimension of the Doha Round cannot only focus on developed countries providing special and differential treatment to all developing countries. Indeed,

permanent exclusion from any meaningful obligations is not an appropriate way forward. The CIAA agrees with the claim that developing countries themselves will have to make a contribution to the liberalisation process according to their level of development. Emerging economies, some having spontaneously grouped under the "G20", should also extend to other developing countries preferential or duty-free access.

The CIAA urges WTO partners to show realism in their objectives and willingness to compromise in view of reaching framework agreements by the end of July 2004.

The CIAA believes that strong guiding principles are needed to ensure a coordinated approach throughout the three pillars and a coherent approach as regards agricultural products and processed goods that must be treated on an equal footing.

Negotiations for an EU-Mercosur agreement

The food and drink industry is in favour of strengthening economic relations between the EU and the countries of South America. Due to the development potential of Mercosur in the agri-food sector, these negotiations between two major players in the agri-food business are an important challenge.

For the European food and drink industry, its products and know-how, Mercosur is an attractive market despite the severe economic difficulties some of its members are now facing. But today, the trade balance for agri-food products is largely unfavourable to the EU.

The CIAA welcomes the acceleration given to the negotiation process with the clear road map to finalise negotiations. It is essential that Mercosur is a fully integrated market by that point. The CIAA favours the approach of making the EU's ambitions to market opening dependent on the Mercosur position in WTO negotiations and on their outcome. The CIAA supports the EU's level of ambitions to address a wide range of issues and also favours the negotiation of a specific chapter dedicated to legislation applying to food products, such as phyto-sanitary, veterinary and hygiene rules. An effective improvement of trade flows

will require commitments in the area of mutual recognition. In the case of non-respect of trade commitments, The CIAA is in favour of an efficient dispute settlement system.

The CIAA welcomes the important EU efforts to move forward in trade negotiations. The trade section of the draft agreement must be based on the gradual liberalisation of trade in food and drink products in coherence with the CAP. Discussions on the handling of sensitive products need direct co-ordination with the sectors involved.



Negotiations to conclude Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

The CIAA welcomes the launch of the second phase in the process of these negotiations aimed at both giving new impetus to economic and trade co-operation through EPAs with the global objective of sustainable development and at supporting regional integration.

This reinforcement of trade should be carried out in a well defined and transparent framework and in a gradual way. The development of trade from ACP countries towards the EU is an on-going process. For the food and drink industry, some conditions should be fulfilled in order for this increased market opening, on the European side in particular, to truly benefit ACP countries:

- The rules of origin of products, and mainly those relating to the cumulation, should respond to the risk of fraud linked to trade between ACP and non-ACP countries.
- If the final coverage of products, including the handling of so-called sensitive products, and other measures taken by EPAs is negotiated taking into account the needs and risks for ACP countries as well as Community commitments, the coherence of the EPA agreements with EU agricultural policy should remain a basic principle.

At a moment, after the failure of the WTO Ministerial Conference, when trade preferences are put into question, it seems important to recall that it has long been part of the EU trade strategy to provide preferences and that despite inevitable erosion of these preferences, the EU should continue providing market openings that are customized to developing country beneficiaries.

International Transport security

The security of the global supply chain has now become an essential issue. In the framework of the Bioterrorism Act, in 2003 the US Food and Drug Administration implemented provisions, in particular on the registration of food and drink establishments and on prior import declarations for foodstuffs.

The industry shares the overall aim of the American authorities but, at the same time, it has also expressed its concerns about the disproportionate nature of certain provisions, which are burdensome and may have a dissuasive effect on exports, in particular for small and medium sized enterprises.

It is essential to ensure a fair balance between the need to increase transport security and the need to address exporters' legitimate concerns about trade barriers.

In order to ensure security on Community territory, the Commission proposes a radical reform of the EU customs legislation that will affect European business. The CIAA supports the priority objective, that of increasing security. At the same time, the industry has serious concerns regarding some of the Commission's proposals. In particular, the existing simplified customs clearance procedures have to be maintained. In addition, the status of authorised economic operators should be developed and recognised in all EU Member States.



Proposal for a regulation on nutrition and health claims on foodstuffs

In its effort to respond to consumer demand and governmental guidelines, the food and drink industry has invested considerably in research on and development of products with health and nutrition benefits. But to continue on this path, manufacturers must be able to communicate these benefits to consumers by making claims.

The CIAA supports the general principle of the Commission proposal adopted on 16 July 2003 to establish a harmonised regulatory framework encompassing all types of claims, including disease risk reduction claims. The CIAA, however, strongly opposes any a priori prohibition of claims or exclusion of categories of foods from the possibility of communicating nutrition or health benefits to consumers.

All claims that are scientifically substantiated and well understood by consumers should be permitted. The communication of the claim as such (wording of the claim) should remain the responsibility of the food operator.

The CIAA believes that the criteria for the substantiation of a claim should be the same for all types of claims in terms of evidence. The process of evaluation however may differ. The principle of proportionality should apply to both the level of substantiation that is required to make a claim and to the marketing procedures applicable to products bearing claims. The procedures should be pragmatic and entail clear, reasonable and mandatory time limits.

Proposal for a regulation of addition of vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to foods

At a time when changing lifestyles and modifications of dietary habits are increasing the risk of micronutrient deficiencies, food fortification is one of the best tools to contribute to the dietary balance of the population.

The CIAA welcomes the Commission proposal adopted on 10 November 2003 as a positive step towards the creation of a real single market for fortified foods. The new regulation should ensure a high level of consumer protection while at the same time offering to all European consumers a varied choice of foods adapted to modern life constraints and contributing to nutritional balance.

Consumer safety must be the only criteria for the fixation of maximum levels for the addition of vitamins and minerals to foods.

Even though the CIAA is aware of the need to establish a legal framework for all other substances, it fears that the extension of the text to the other substances could hold up harmonisation for the addition of vitamins and minerals given that the instruments and authorisation procedures are in essence very different.

Within the context of the diversity of food habits in Europe and of a varied and balanced diet, all foods contribute to a healthy diet. It is therefore key that all foodstuffs may be fortified with vitamins and minerals on the condition that consumer safety is guaranteed.

- As far as scientific principles are concerned, the CIAA reiterates that the safety approach is the only way conducive to genuine Europe-wide rules;
- From the market viewpoint, statistics strongly prove that liberal regulations on fortification have not led to the indiscriminate use of fortified foods;
- As regards legal concerns on the marketability of a product, any potential restriction should be defined on a case-by-case basis and should be fully justified on public health grounds.



Draft proposal for Regulations on Additives and Enzymes

The CIAA welcomes the Commission's intention to legislate in the area of additives and enzymes. The development of new additives and enzymes, and the existence of national legislation in these areas, justify a revision of existing legislation.

The CIAA favours the proposal to use the comitology procedure to amend the technical annexes. The food industry would like the Enzymes proposal to exclude from its scope enzymes which are used solely in the production of food additives, novel foods and flavours, which will

themselves be fully evaluated. The CIAA supports the fact that the positive list will focus on enzyme product and origin, but not brand. The CIAA asks that the definitions of additives and processing aids remain unchanged (cf. definition in 89/107/EC).

The food industry asks that all new legislative initiatives, including on enzymes and additives, should:

- always be based on risk assessments carried out by EFSA or other independent entities, taking into account exposure data.
- always be preceded by a comprehensive regulatory impact assessment taking into account the whole supply chain.
- Include consultation processes with member states and industry before finalising the proposals. In the case of the draft proposals on additives and enzymes the consultation process has been unsatisfactory.

During its revision of additives legislation, other legislative initiatives should progress in parallel, in order to prevent legislative voids, uncertainty and delays. New regulation in the area of additives and enzymes should allow for temporary national authorisations until the proposals are adopted. Otherwise, a lengthy 'stand-by situation' will result, hindering both product development and continuous market adaptation. For industry it is essential to avoid double legislation and double procedures: the CIAA requests confirmation that each additive only has to undergo one single approval procedure, regardless of its origin.

Draft Proposal for a Regulation on flavourings and food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods

The CIAA welcomes the Commission's intention to revise the framework directive on flavourings which puts forward a number of changes supported by industry.

In particular the CIAA strongly supports the introduction of the Comitology procedure for the implementation of a simple and efficient mechanism for both the authorisation of new flavouring substances based on a centralised risk assessment process performed by the EFSA, and the revision of the annex which sets maximum levels for certain substances in certain food categories which contribute most to human intake of the respective substances.

However, the CIAA would also like to express its concerns about possible important changes which would have great implications for the whole food industry: The EU Commission's intention to extend the scope to include food

ingredients with flavouring properties raises concerns within the industry as it could turn ingredients such as honey, butter, etc. into flavours when added to foods where they impart a pronounced flavour. The CIAA requests a careful consideration of the wording of the scope otherwise the scope of the regulation risks encompassing all food ingredients which in the future would be categorised as flavourings according to a too broad definition.

The CIAA also believes that any attempt to change the labelling terms for the benefit of the consumer should focus on providing the consumer with more meaningful information, not simply more information.



The CIAA generally supports the overall intention to revise the framework Directive 88/388/EEC on several aspects but the revision should not be over ambitious and attempt to deal with too many issues, mainly perceived safety concerns linked to the consumption of biologically active principles, the risk of which has not been fully assessed.

Proposal for a Regulation concerning Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)

The CIAA supports the European Commission's objective to protect human health and the environment: trust in the safety of foods is essential for the acceptance of foods by the consumer.

However, the fact that some food materials are in and some are out of the scope of the proposal, leads to concern about the practical implications, and, in industry's view, the confusion and inconsistency related to these. Existing legislation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002) already contains provisions regarding the protection of human health, so in the view of the CIAA the inclusion of food in the scope of the REACH Proposal would result in double legislation.

The CIAA asks that all food (as defined in the Regulation (EC) N°178/2002) be excluded from the scope, since its inclusion neither provides a greater level of protection of human health nor contributes to a safer environment. In the view of the CIAA, it would negatively affect consumer perception of European food, within the EU and abroad, if food were to stay in the scope of a Chemicals Directive.

The CIAA therefore asks that the Commission's proposal for a revised Chemicals policy be amended to exclude all food from the scope instead of only some food products. This would help

- To achieve consistency within EU legislation,
- To avoid an unenforceable situation and
- To avoid disproportionate measures to address an environmental safety issue that is negligible.





EU Emission Trading Scheme

The Europe-wide greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme (known as the EU ETS) is due to start in 2005, with the first phase running from January 2005 to December 2007.

The scheme will be mandatory for food and drink installations with combustion plants with a rated thermal input exceeding 20 MW. These sites must hold a greenhouse gas emissions permit. They will then be allocated allowances that grant them the right to emit a specific quantity of CO₂.

The allowance allocations for each installation for any given period are to be set down in a document called the

National Allocation Plan (NAP). It is the Member States that determine both the allocation conditions and the quantity for emission rights for the various industry sectors covered by the scheme. The European Commission will now have to examine these NAPs, ensuring that the national authorities respect their Kyoto objectives and do not allocate more quotas than necessary.

To establish the NAPs, Member States have often followed a different methodology and made their own interpretation of the scope of the EU ETS directive. This lack of harmonisation could lead to numerous difficulties and create big discrepancies between Member States across the EU. The CIAA hopes that the Commission will ensure an effective operation of the EU ETS in order to avoid distortions of competition between companies and sectors.

The CIAA is also concerned that the negative effects that European industry is about to suffer due to the EU policy on climate change could be aggravated further by the discussions under way between Member States on emissions trading.

Use of sewage sludge in agriculture

Some time ago, the Commission announced its intention to revise the Sewage Sludge Directive. One of the key objectives of this revision should be to further encourage the landspreading of sludge rather than its incineration or its final disposal, thus contributing to a sustainable use of resources.

The main points to be addressed under this revision are the definition of sludge, the type of sludge treatment before it is spread onto land, the limits for concentrations of heavy metals in soil and in sludge, etc.

In the context of the sustainable use of soil, the CIAA strongly supports any Commission initiative to promote the use of bio-residues produced by the food & drink industry (limes, sludge, vegetable residues, ...) on agricultural soils. Their use should be considered as a valuable recovery option provided that their quality complies with the legislation and with the consent limits that are set.

The current lack of harmonisation of analytical methods and consent limits leads to distortion of competition between the different sources of fertilisers and soil improvers. To avoid this, all products spread on land, regardless of their origin, should fall under the same rules.

The CIAA hopes the revision of the Sludge Directive will restore public confidence and acceptance with regard to the use of bio-residues produced by the food & drink industry that are spread onto land.



Prevention & Recycling of Waste

In the Communication “Towards a Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste”, the Commission launches a broad consultation exercise on the EU’s future policy in this area. This Communication proposes various policy options on how to avoid waste, how to reduce the use of resources and which waste to recycle.

The CIAA has been actively involved in this consultation. As part of its sustainable development commitment, the European food and drink industry has continuously improved its product and process performance to achieve a better use of resources in order to conserve them and minimise waste generation. Besides, waste is an unwanted cost factor for food and drink enterprises. These costs have driven the food industry to work hard and to innovate in this field. Minimisation of these costs is an important competitiveness factor and, at the same time, an effective driving instrument.

In practice, the food and drink industry produces a range of products which will only exceptionally be turned into waste as those products are simply ingested by consumers. During the production process some materials (by/co-products) can emanate which according to their nature and quality can be brought back into the chain of utility (animal feed, pharmaceuticals, fertilisers), thus minimising the amount of waste. A limited amount of waste materials which cannot be further used is also generated. Those will be recovered, whenever possible, or eliminated.

The CIAA agrees that waste prevention and recycling policies shall contribute together with energy recovery and sound disposal options to the achievement of an optimal waste management strategy.

The CIAA is particularly supportive of the decision to base measures on thorough analyses of costs and benefits as well as the cost efficiency of different options.

The CIAA fully supports the Commission’s proposal for a clarification of the definition of waste. It hopes that a classification which takes into account the real situation regarding the valuable use of by/co-products and which uses realistic criteria to make a better distinction between waste and by/co-products will be developed.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control & Best Available Techniques

The proper implementation of the 1996 Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive is a key priority for the CIAA. This issue is particularly important for the food and drink sector as environmental permits will be granted to food and drink installations if they conform to the Best Available Techniques (BATs). Our installations already apply BATs whenever it is technically feasible and economically viable.

With regard to IPPC, the CIAA is actively co-operating with the Commission in drawing up a reference list of BATs (BREF) that will be conducive to adequate guidelines for authorisations in our sector.

Flexibility in the pollution control techniques applied is crucial. In the determination of BATs for the food and drink sector, proper consideration should be given to local conditions (e.g geographical location of a site). Besides food safety and quality factors are of paramount importance and may place some constraints in the selection of BATs. Finally, the economic impact of a technique should also be investigated when assessing its applicability.

Although BREFs are a valuable tool of implementation of the IPPC Directive, BREFs should remain as “reference documents”. Under no circumstances should they impose on the industries a technique applicable to all cases, since each industrial site is a unique case with many possible variations. Accordingly, BREF should contain only a series of reference values on the basis of which local authorities will discuss with the operators the measures that are the most appropriate to achieve a reduction in pollution in a particular case.

Integrated Product Policy

The Communication on IPP proposes a strategy to strengthen product-related environmental policies and promotes a market for “greener products”.

The CIAA recalls that product policy should be driven by industry and business and the IPP framework should set objectives but not prescribe the means to achieve them.

Besides, environmental considerations have already been integrated throughout the food supply chain. This includes:

support for sustainable agriculture, eco-efficiency in production, efficient distribution, optimisation of end-of-life products. The European food and drink industry is indeed firmly committed to the continuous improvement of its product and process performance in line with the principles of sustainable development.

Given:

- the specificity of food products which are ingested by consumers and the resulting heavy regulation that already exists for food and drink products,
- the risk of interference between existing legal requirements and possible new requirements created by IPP, and the confusion resulting for the consumer,
- the numerous voluntary steps food and drink companies have been taking to continuously meet consumer needs in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner,

The CIAA considers that food products should be excluded from the scope of IPP.



CIAA POSITIONS ON OTHER ISSUES ON THE AGENDA OF THE EU PRESIDENCY



EU strategy for Sustainable Development

After the Johannesburg Summit, the CIAA has stressed the importance of the EU taking the lead in the follow-up process by translating its political ambitions into concrete action.

Key areas for EU action are water and energy with further progress on the EU initiatives and the development of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable production and consumption. Other actions are also taken in the field of agriculture and rural development, fisheries, chemicals, globalisation and trade.

The food and drink industry commitment to sustainable development remains the key driver for the European food and drink industry to address those issues. This commitment can be summarised as such:

- Protecting natural resources for their long term availability and minimising waste along the supply chain

- Ensuring quality and safety of food and drink products

- Optimising costs

Food and drink companies are committed to continue raising their environmental performance through on-going improvements to their products and processes. As such a decoupling between economic growth and resource consumption has already been achieved. Social and environmental considerations are also becoming more and more part of food and drink companies' strategies and management.

Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the EU food and drink industry has made sustainable development one of its key priorities. However, the EU should create the necessary conditions for industry to become a strong partner in a global strategy for more equitable growth and sustainable development and to achieve the Lisbon objectives.

Introducing ever more stringent EU and national regulations should not be contemplated as the only approach for encouraging companies to devise proactive environmental strategies. Spontaneous initiatives which go beyond what is required by legislators (e.g. proactive initiatives in the areas of technological innovation, environmental management, investments, multi-stakeholder partnerships, etc.) can also generate much greater progress than classical environmental legislation.

The development of an environmental policy geared to sustainable development must therefore create a context that encourages initiatives by companies in the area of environmental protection and must be organised on the basis of the following three fundamental principles:

- Ensuring the greatest possible environmental effectiveness thanks to stable and clear environmental objectives for the long term as well as a supportive policy framework.
- Promoting a quest for maximum economic efficiency in pursuit of environmental objectives.
- Ensuring coherence between environmental objectives and other objectives (economic, social, etc.) pursued by society.

Diet, physical activity and health

So-called “diseases of affluence”, for example obesity, coronary heart disease and cancer are generally recognised as having multi-factorial causes. Diet certainly plays a role but other life-style factors such as smoking, levels of physical activity, genetic, socio-economic and environmental factors, are also determinant.

The food and drink industry supports the principle that balancing calorie intake and energy output is essential to maintain a healthy body weight. Efforts aimed at reducing the prevalence of obesity and related diseases must therefore focus both on reducing calorie intake and increasing physical activity.

Food and drink industries produce and market a wide variety of foods and beverages to satisfy consumer needs, including nutritional content, taste, variety, convenience and value for money. This variety enables individuals to buy the foods that are appropriate for their lifestyle and physical activity levels. Every food plays a role in a balanced diet.

The food and drink industries will continue to use their scientific knowledge and technological expertise to develop a wide array of enjoyable, good tasting, nutritious and convenient foods. They are also committed to providing responsible and helpful communication about their food and drink products, including those consumed by children, in order to help consumers make well-informed food choices appropriate for their lifestyle, diet and physical activity levels.

CIAA members are committed to working together with other stakeholders, including public health authorities, healthcare, educational, governmental and other organisations to promote improved nutrition, healthy diets and increased levels of physical activity.

National Federations

Austria

FIAA - FACHVERBAND
LEBENSMITTELINDUSTRIE

Belgium

FEVIA - FEDERATION DE L'INDUSTRIE
ALIMENTAIRE/FEDERATIE
VOEDINGSINDUSTRIEN

Czech Republic

PKCR- FEDERATION OF THE F&D
INDUSTRY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Denmark

FI - FOEDEREINDUSTRIEN

Estonia

ETL - ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF F&D
INDUSTRY

Finland

ETL – ELINTARVIKETEOLLISUUSLIITTO RY

France

ANIA - ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES
INDUSTRIES ALIMENTAIRES

Germany

BLL/BVE- BUND FÜR
LEBENSMITTELRECHT UND
LEBENSMITTELKUNDE/
BUNDESVEREINIGUNG DER
DEUTSCHEN ERNÄHRUNGSINDUSTRIEN

Greece

SEVT - FEDERATION OF HELLENIC FOOD
INDUSTRIES

Hungary

FHFI (EFOSZ) - FEDERATION OF
HUNGARIAN FOOD INDUSTRIES

Ireland

FDII - FOOD AND DRINK FEDERATION
IRELAND

Italy

FEDERALIMENTARE-
FEDERALIMENTARE SERVIZI

Latvia

LPFI- LATVIAN FEDERATION OF FOOD
ENTERPRISES

Luxembourg

FIAL- FEDERATION INDUSTRIES AGRO-
ALIMENTAIRES LUXEMBOURGEOISES

Poland

PFPZ - POLISH FEDERATION OF FOOD
INDUSTRY

Portugal

FIPA – FEDERAÇÃO INDUSTRIAS
PORTUGUESES AGRO-ALIMENTARES

Slovakia

FOOD FEDERATION SLOVAKIA

Slovenia

ASSOCIATION OF FOOD INDUSTRIES OF
SLOVENIA

Spain

FIAB - FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE
IND.DE LA ALIMENTACIÓN Y BEBIDAS

Sweden

LI - LIVSMEDELSFÖRETAGEN

The Netherlands

VAI - NEDERLANDSE
VOEDINGSMIDDELEN INDUSTRIE

United Kingdom

FDF - FOOD & DRINK FEDERATION

OBSERVER:

Norway

NBL - NORWEGIAN FOOD & DRINK
INDUSTRIES FEDERATION

Sectors

Bakery (AIBI)

Beer (BREWERS OF EUROPE)

Breakfast cereals (CEEREAL)

Chocolate, biscuits and
confectionery (CAOBISCO)

Dairy Products (EDA)

Dietetic products (IDACE)

Flours (GAM)

Frozen products (FAFPAS)

Fruit and vegetable
conserves (OEITFL)

Fruit and vegetable juices (AIJN)

Ice cream (EUROGLACES)

Isoglucose (API)

Margarine (IMACE)

Mineral waters (EFBW)

Oils (FEDIOL)

Pasta (UNAFPA)

Pet food (FEDIAF)

Processed meat (CLITRAVI)

Raw material and improvers for
bakery and pastry (FEDIMA)

Roasted and Soluble
Coffee (EUCA / ECF)

Salt (EUSALT)

Sauces (FIC)

Semolina (SEMOULIERS)

Snacks (ESA)

Soft drinks (UNESDA)

Spices (ESA)

Starch (AAC)

Stocks and soups (FAIBP)

Sugar (CEFS)

Tea / Infusions (ETC / EHIA)

Transformed potatoes (UEITP)

Vegetal proteins (EUVEPRO)

Yeast (COFALEC)

European Committee of Large Food and Drink Companies

ADM

CARGILL

COCA-COLA

DANONE

FERRERO

HEINEKEN

HEINZ

INTERBREW

KELLOGG'S

KRAFT FOODS

MASTERFOODS

NESTLE EUROPE

PEPSICO

PERNOD RICARD

PROCTER & GAMBLE

SARA LEE

SÜDZUCKER

TATE & LYLE / AMYLUM

UNILEVER



Confédération des industries agro-alimentaires de l'UE
Confederation of the food and drink industries of the EU

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