

## **Social partners in the food and drink industry call for an ambitious agreement on climate change while promoting social change**

Against the backdrop of a predicted rise in global demand for food, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that all aspects of food security will potentially be affected by climate change, including food production and price stability. In particular, agricultural production may be hampered by extreme weather events such as droughts and storms, which may affect the long-term supply of safe, high-quality and affordable raw materials.

This global challenge will have far-reaching implications for society, including for the competitiveness and sustainability of all food and drink manufacturers. That's why European food and drink manufacturers are actively committed to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change and are proactively engaging with trade unions and workers, with partners along the supply chain, with governments, civil society, academia and other stakeholders, to address these challenges.

This year will be crucial as 196 countries will meet in Paris in December to agree on a new global Climate Change framework. Europe is also at a key turning point as the actions to implement the agreed 2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework will be defined.

In parallel, EU policy makers have been key in highlighting and bringing to our attention employment challenges and opportunities regarding the transition towards a green, low carbon, energy and resource-efficient economy.

FoodDrinkEurope, in collaboration with EFFAT, are committed to continuing to address employment challenges in the EU. Both organisations have recently issued a joint pledge on apprenticeships<sup>1</sup> and a joint statement on industrial policy<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, work is currently being carried out on a new EU funded project entitled 'Bringing new talents and managing an ageing workforce'.

Within this context, EU-level Social Partners, FoodDrinkEurope<sup>3</sup> and EFFAT<sup>4</sup>, call upon governments to:

- Reach agreement on a new global framework on Climate Change through which we can further mitigate and adapt to Climate Change, while promoting a more sustainable and resilient food production system;
- Include in the agreement an integrated framework that allows labour market and skill policies to play an active role in the support of the transition towards a green

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<sup>1</sup> FoodDrinkEurope EFFAT Apprenticeship pledge <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1149&langId=en&idPledge=53>

<sup>2</sup> FoodDrinkEurope EFFAT joint industrial policy statement  
[http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/publications\\_documents/FoodDrinkEurope\\_EFFAT\\_Industrial\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/publications_documents/FoodDrinkEurope_EFFAT_Industrial_Policy.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 'A time to act' – Climate action and the Food and Drink Industry  
[http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/publications\\_documents/FoodDrink\\_Europe\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/publications_documents/FoodDrink_Europe_Climate_Action_Brochure.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> 'A more sustainable agriculture food and tourism system - from farm to fork'  
<http://www.effat.org/en/node/14123>

economy which will create quality jobs while paying attention to those negatively impacted by the changes;

- Strengthen the roles of employers, workers and their trade unions, and civil society in the implementation of sustainable development;
- Support less developed and financially weaker countries to help them build a climate-friendly green economy. The overall objective being poverty alleviation and full and sustainable employment.

*EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope are the most representative EU organisations respectively representing food and drink industry workers and employers in the EU. The EU Social Dialogue Committee in the Food and Drink Industry between EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope was officially launched on 23 January 2012.*