



Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES: NEW PROPOSAL IS A STEP FORWARD BUT PROMOTING FAIRNESS IN THE WHOLE CHAIN REMAINS A CHALLENGE

Today, the European Commission has published a proposal for a Directive on unfair trading practices (UTPs) in the food supply chain and the members of the signatory organisations welcome this move. Such a proposal for a Directive has the potential to create a minimum harmonisation at EU level without endangering well-functioning existing systems already in place in some Member States.

The signatories are nevertheless concerned with the limited scope of the proposal, covering only SMEs suppliers. A successful approach to combating UTPs needs to be applicable to all players in the supply chain, regardless of their size, as it would therefore impact all commercial relations.

Moreover, it is crucial to ensure an effective cooperation between enforcement authorities addressing transnational UTPs that could otherwise be left unchallenged.

Now is the time to act to protect the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our food supply chain, strengthening Europe's competitiveness and growth to build a stronger and more inclusive Europe.

The signatories call upon the co-legislators – the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament – to jointly work on the Commission's proposal and ensure its timely adoption.

**AIM** | European Brands Association | 9 avenue des Gaulois | B-1040 Brussels | Tel : + 32 2 736 03 05 | [www.aim.be](http://www.aim.be) | EU Transparency register ID no.: 1074382679-01

**CEJA** | European Council of Young Farmers | Rue de la Loi 67 | B - 1040 Brussels | [www.ceja.eu](http://www.ceja.eu) | EU Transparency Register Number: 849413211923-25

**CLITRAVI** | Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union | Boulevard Baudouin 18 (bte4) | B - 1000 Bruxelles | E-mail: [info@clitravi.eu](mailto:info@clitravi.eu) | EU Transparency Register ID: 02978802379-31

**Copa - Cogeca** | European Farmers European Agri-Cooperatives | 61, Rue de Trèves | B - 1040 Bruxelles | [www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu) | EU Transparency Register Number | Copa 44856881231-49 | Cogeca 09586631237-74

**EFFAT** | European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions | Avenue Louise 130A | 1050 Brussels | [effat@effat.org](mailto:effat@effat.org) | Tel: +32 2 218 77 30 | [www.effat.org](http://www.effat.org) | Transparency register ID : 3313084104314

**FTAO** | Fair Trade Advocacy Office | Village Partenaire, Bureau 1 | Rue Fernand Bernier 15 | 1060 Brussels, Belgium | [www.fairtrade-advocacy.org](http://www.fairtrade-advocacy.org) | EU Transparency Register Nr: 20744335040-66

**FoodDrinkEurope** | Avenue des Nerviens 9-31 - 1040 Brussels - Belgium | Tel. +32 2 514 11 11 | [info@fooddrinkeurope.eu](mailto:info@fooddrinkeurope.eu) | [www.fooddrinkeurope.eu](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu) | ETI Register 75818824519-45

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**UEAPME** – the European craft and SME employers' organisation | Rue Jacques de Lalaingstraat 4 | B - 1040 Brussels Tel. +32 2 230 75 99 | [www.ueapme.com](http://www.ueapme.com) | EU Transparency Register: 55820581197-35



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**AIM** is the European Brands Association. It represents brand manufacturers in Europe on key issues which affect their ability to design, distribute and market their brands. AIM's membership groups some 1800 companies of all sizes through corporate members and national associations in 21 countries.

**CEJA** represents the political interests of around two million young farmers from across Europe. Its main objectives are to facilitate the installation of young farmers, to inform and to train them as well as act as a forum for communication and dialogue between them.

The Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union (**CLITRAVI**) is the professional organisation whose aim is to represent the interest of the European Meat Processing Industry. CLITRAVI has 26 national member organisations in the different EU-Member States and represents about 13,000 companies active in the production of a wide variety of meat products. The vast majority of those companies are SMEs which operate since many generations in rural areas throughout Europe. The European meat processing industry employs 350.000 persons and generates an annual turnover of around 80 billion € sales.

**Copa and Cogeca** are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents over 23 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 66 member organisations from the EU member states. Together, they are one of the biggest and most active lobbying organisations in Brussels.

**EFFAT** is the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions. As a European Trade Union Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 22 million workers towards the European Institutions, European employers' associations and transnational companies. EFFAT is a member of the ETUC and the European regional organisation of the IUF.

As a joint initiative of Fairtrade International, the World Fair Trade Organization and the World Fair Trade Organization-Europe, the **Fair Trade Advocacy Office** leads the Fair Trade movement political advocacy at European Union level and contributes to the strengthening of the political advocacy capacities of the global Fair Trade movement.

**FoodDrinkEurope** is the organisation of Europe's food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector and leading employer in the EU and a key contributor to its economy (289 000 companies, 99% SMEs, 4.2 million employees).

**IFOAM EU** represents more than 190 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.

**UEAPME** is the employers' organisation representing Crafts and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 64 member organisations covering about 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner.