

EU code of conduct on responsible business and marketing practices

Annual Report

Eucolait, the European Dairy Trade Association (transparency register number: 5159980776-55) signed the code of conduct on 6 October 2021. Eucolait represents exporters, importers and wholesalers of dairy products. More than 400 companies ranging from small trading businesses to large processing companies are members directly or through associations at Member State level.

Endorsing the aspirational objectives set out in this Code

Eucolait has fully endorsed the aspirational objectives of the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices. The code has been approved by our Board of Directors and we have promoted its uptake within the dairy trade community. We recognise our role in promoting sustainable food systems in line with the EU Vision for Agriculture and Food.

Promoting and disseminating the Code

Eucolait has communicated its support for the Code and shared sustainability-related updates and resources regularly with members through newsletters, targeted mailings, and discussions at our Standing Technical Committee and other meetings. Topics related to the Code's aspirational objectives were also incorporated in exchanges on supply chain resilience, international trade, and regulatory developments affecting the dairy sector. Eucolait has maintained sustainability as a consistent theme in its outreach, ensuring member companies remain informed and engaged.

Two years ago, Eucolait published its Sustainability Manifesto, which sets out the association's guiding principles in areas such as climate action, biodiversity and sustainable trade. The manifesto aligns closely with the Code's objectives and demonstrates Eucolait's commitment to supporting the transition to more sustainable food systems. Since the publication of the manifesto, Eucolait has continued to raise awareness about its content, encouraging members to use it as a reference framework for their sustainability strategies and actions.

Eucolait hosts three large events annually, gathering between 120 and 280 participants. Eucolait actively promotes the objectives of the Code during these events through the choice of topics and speakers. Our most recent events have included presentations on the sustainability programmes of leading dairy companies and on related regulatory developments at European and Member States level.

Encouraging members to align their sustainability actions and business practices to the aspirational objectives and targets of the Code

Encouraging such alignment has been the objective of our sustainability manifesto and follow-up actions. Many of our members have solid, independently validated, sustainability programmes and practices in place. A few businesses are signatories to the Code and others have explicitly expressed support for our sustainability manifesto.

Eucolait further provides regular updates on EU sustainability policies and initiatives (e.g. sustainability reporting, emissions reduction, deforestation free supply chains, packaging, and environmental labelling) to guide members in their internal practices. Sustainability is integrated as a standing item in Eucolait's agenda with members, underlining its strategic importance.

Continuing to engage in dialogue with other food chain/systems actors and EU and international policy-makers

Eucolait has recently become a member of the Global Dairy Platform (GDP), which leads the dairy sector's collective efforts in demonstrating the contribution of dairy to sustainable food systems and healthy diets. From accelerating climate action to promoting inclusive and equitable food systems, GDP supports the global dairy industry in advancing sustainable dairy nutrition and addressing environmental and social challenges across the value chain. Against this backdrop, Eucolait has also signed up to the Pathways to Dairy Net Zero movement, a global initiative dedicated to reducing dairy's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next 30 years. The initiative aims to build on existing efforts, optimise practices and reduce emissions, while safeguarding nutrition security and supporting the livelihoods of over one billion people worldwide.

Eucolait is in regular contact with EU institutions and stakeholders across the food supply chain. It participates in key dialogues relevant to sustainability, food security, trade, and sector resilience.

Eucolait is committed to creating mutual understanding and partnerships that address common challenges and support the dairy sector's long-term sustainability.