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SMEUnited 2025 reporting on activities in relation to the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing

SMEUnited, formerly known as UEAPME, is the association of crafts and SMEs in Europe with around 65 member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEUnited is a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner and acts on behalf of crafts and SMEs in the European Social Dialogue and in discussions with the EU institutions. We represent national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. We speak on behalf of the 25,8 million SMEs in Europe which employ almost 88,7 million people.

SMEs in Europe count for 99,8% of all enterprises, 2/3 of employment and close to 53% of the added value created in the European Union. These enterprises play a decisive role in Europe's economy and society, are driver of innovation and ensure social and regional stability. SMEs provide diverse, locally rooted, and sustainable food products while maintaining strong ties to local communities.

Our association takes the opportunity of this yearly report to reaffirm its full support to the aspirational objectives set out in the Code. Over the past year, SMEUnited continued to make information available to members and host discussions about the Code of Conduct, its objectives and benefits during its Sector Committee hosted twice a year. In addition SMEUnited participated in the Code of Conduct events in 2024.

SMEUnited continues to engage with other food chain actors and EU policymakers to progress towards our common aspirations. We would like to remind that our members are relatively small in comparison to other actors in the food chain, which limits the scope of potential activities that can be developed.