



THE SOCIAL PARTNERS IN THE EU FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY

FoodDrinkEurope is the representative body for Europe's food and drink industry – the largest manufacturing sector in the EU in terms of turnover, employment and value added. It brings together **25** national food and drink federations, **25** European sector associations and **17** individual food and drink companies.

For more information:
www.effat.org

EFFAT is the European Trade Union Federation representing **2.6 million** workers through **120** national trade unions from **35** European countries employed in the food processing, agriculture, tobacco, hotel, catering and tourism industries across the EU.

For more information:
www.fooddrinkeurope.eu

120	25	25	17
National trade Unions	National food & drink federations	European sector associations	Individual food processing companies



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JOINING FORCES FOR AN EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR THE FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

A European social partnership initiative





JOINT FOODDRINKEUROPE – EFFAT POSITION ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY

THE EU FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY: A KEY PILLAR OF THE EU ECONOMY

- The biggest manufacturing sector in the EU both in terms of turnover and employment (4.24 million jobs directly)
- A non-cyclical and resilient pillar of the EU economy
- Processing 70% of EU agricultural produce while providing safe and nutritious food of the highest quality to European consumers
- The largest global exporter of food and drink products

The EU food and drink industry is a stable, non-cyclical and robust manufacturing sector which has demonstrated its resilience during the recent economic downturn. It generates 1.8% of EU GDP and will therefore be a major contributor to the 20% target proposed for the industry in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy*.

*Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'For a European Industrial Renaissance', 22 January 2014

THE NEED FOR AN EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR FOOD AND DRINK...

Despite being a major contributor to Europe's economy, key competitiveness indicators show that Europe's food and drink sector is losing its competitive edge.

FoodDrinkEurope and EFFAT believe that an industrial policy for the EU food and drink sector should focus on enhancing the sector's competitiveness through sustainable employment, investment, innovation policies and export performance.

In particular, this industrial policy should:

- Ensure a well-functioning EU Single Market for food based on a socially and environmentally responsible level playing field that is supported by smart regulation
- Contribute to sustainable employment, paying particular attention to linking effectively skills development with employment growth and increased labour productivity
- Foster the transition towards more sustainable food systems and empower consumer choice and confidence
- Increase and consistently facilitate trade opportunities, in particular through integrated, transparent supply chains
- Promote and support the role of SMEs, especially by facilitating knowledge transfer and improving access to finance
- Encourage the industry's innovative capacity by promoting science-based new technologies and overcoming bottlenecks to the promotion of sustainable innovations in the market.

...AND A HIGH LEVEL FORUM

FoodDrinkEurope and EFFAT therefore welcome the efforts to increase Europe's industrial competitiveness and call on the EU institutions to:

- Support an industrial policy which will enhance both the internal and the external competitiveness of Europe's food and drink companies
- Develop an EU industrial policy that will help our industry tackle new challenges whilst providing both sustainable growth and employment
- Acknowledge the need to develop this industrial policy hand-in-hand with the sector's key stakeholders through the establishment of a permanent High Level Forum for the competitiveness of the food supply chain, to complement the fundamental role of social partners dialogue

THE EU SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN THE FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

The process of setting up the social dialogue committee at EU level for the food and drink industry was started in 2009 by the 'High Level Group for the Competitiveness of the Agro Food Industry'¹. Social dialogue was recognised as one of the pillars of European social policy and as a tool of "good governance". This recognition was then taken on board by the new 'High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain' in 2010, which helped to complete a social dialogue committee at EU level for the food and drink industry.

EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope are the most representative EU organisations respectively representing food and drink industry workers and employers in the EU and are recognised as EU-level Social Partners².

The EU Social Dialogue Committee in the Food and Drink Industry between EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope was officially launched on 23 January 2012.

With this joint position, Europe's food and drink trade unions and manufacturers highlight the necessity for a sector-wide approach tailored to increase the competitiveness of the industry and foster continued growth and employment.

Together, FoodDrinkEurope and EFFAT call for the development and implementation of a sound European industrial policy in their sector without delay.

¹ A multi-stakeholder forum which regroups EU Institutions and Member States as well as business and civil society actors along the EU food supply chain
² as per Art. 154-155 TFEU

FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY FIGURES

Manufacturing in the EU

TURNOVER:	€1,048 billion
VALUE ADDED:	€ 206 billion

The food and drink industry is the largest manufacturing sector in the EU in terms of turnover (14.6%) and value added (12.5%).

The industry is active in all Member States and is the largest manufacturing industry in several of them.

Eurostat

Creating a network of SMEs

NUMBER OF SMEs:	283,000
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- SMEs account for:
- 51.6% of the food and drink sector turnover
 - 64.3% of the food and drink sector employment
 - 99.1% of the food and drink sector companies

Eurostat

Exporting worldwide

EXPORTS:	€86.2 billion
IMPORTS:	€63.2 billion

In 2012, the EU positive trade balance for food and drink reached a record level of €23 billion.

Eurostat

Providing jobs

EMPLOYMENT:	4.24 million people
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The food and drink industry is the leading employer in the EU manufacturing sector (15.5%).

The 4.24 million jobs are spread across all Member States and are mostly located in rural areas.

Eurostat

Contributing to the food supply chain

TURNOVER:	€ 3.5 trillion
VALUE ADDED:	€650 billion
EMPLOYMENT:	24 million people

The food and drink industry is a key member of the food supply chain, which generates 11% of total EU employment and 6% of the EU Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Eurostat

Leading world trade

EU MARKET SHARE OF GLOBAL EXPORTS:	16.1%
EU MARKET SHARE OF GLOBAL IMPORTS:	14%

The EU is the number one exporter and the number two importer of food and drink products worldwide.

UN COMTRADE