



From the President's desk

To the Members of the  
European Natural Sausage Casings Association

PM 301 / Farm to Fork / Code of Conduct

Ellerbek, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Farm to Fork

Dear members,

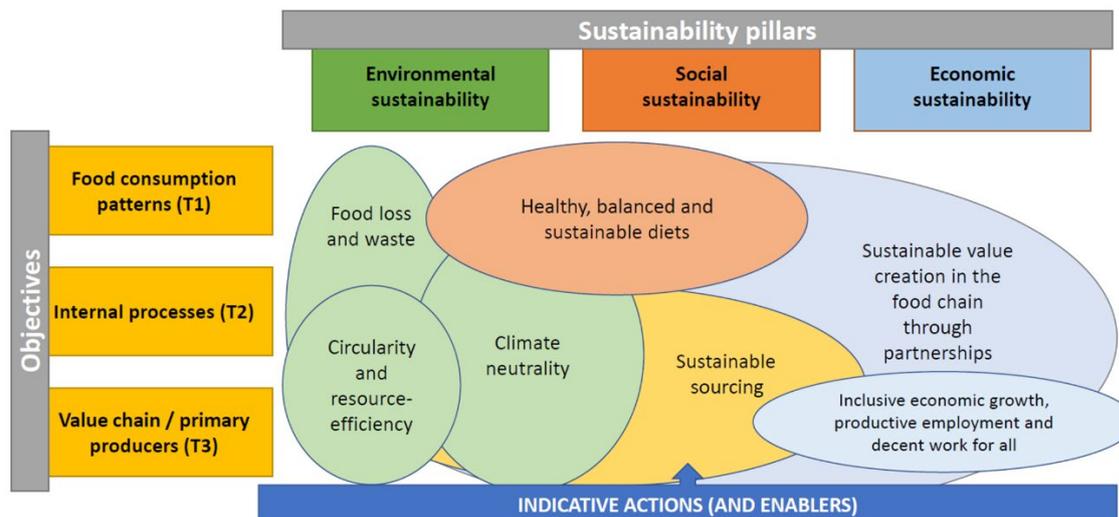
Over the past years we have started to learn more about the European Farm to Fork Strategy, which aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system that should:

- Have a neutral or positive environmental impact;
- Help to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts;
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity;
- Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food;
- Preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade.



The approach is clear and fundamental shift in EU policy. Both internally and international.

## Conceptual framework of aspirations



### **How /why is this relevant for the casing industry or my company?**

The overall target is to be climate neutral in 2050, with a 55% reduction accomplished by 2030, applicable to **ALL companies** in Europe.

Three main sustainability pillars are identified, applicable to all companies:

1. Environment: GHG, water, soil, air, circular economy, food waste, ...;
2. Social: working conditions; animal welfare, antimicrobial residues, health (fighting in particular against cancer and obesity, i.e. against fat, sugar, salt);
3. Economy: shift in consumer approach; new business models; transversal approach => being sustainable is not only for "our company", but the chain – Responsible businesses: Code of Conduct.

Emphasis will also be placed on labelling & information to consumers (origin, nutri-score, sustainability, etc).

The overall objectives and approaches of F2F are not voluntary and as the work and implementation progresses, non-compliance with the sustainability pillars will have negative consequences for individual companies. For example: non-sustainable companies will not be longer eligible for bank loans or at bad conditions.

### **EU Code of Conduct (CoC) for responsible business and marketing practices**

Extracted from the F2F strategy, *"Food processors, food service operators and retailers shape the market and influence consumers' dietary choices. [...] The food industry and retail sector should show the way by increasing the availability and affordability of healthy, sustainable food options to reduce the overall environmental footprint of the food system. [...] To promote this, the Commission will develop an EU Code of conduct for responsible business and marketing practice accompanied with a monitoring framework. [...] The Code will be developed with all relevant stakeholders."*

This CoC is especially applicable for European companies. However, the following comments should be taken into account:

- Participation is on a voluntary basis and subscribing companies can opt out;
- Only those companies signing the CoC will be belonging to the signatory group which is the only body than can modify the Code;
- The CoC is inclusive, with broad terms so that all participants can identify commitments.
- Proposed and included actions by individual companies must be tangible, ambitious and in line with the objectives defined in the Code of Conduct. Companies are asked to focus on changes that can be considered meaningful; They must be able to monitor the progresses;
- Companies have to deliver an annual report (see template [HERE](#)). The Commission will monitor the commitments and consider legislative measures if progress is insufficient. Annual reports are publicly available to indicate transparency and visibility.

To read more about the Code of Conduct, please visit the following EU COM page: [\[LINK\]](#)

### **Call to action**

As an association and member of UECEBV, ENSCA is under the umbrella of UECEBV and supports the overall objectives and approaches of the F2F strategy and the EU CoC.

We intend to establish a dedicated task force and to this purpose we invite European casing companies to come forward and take part in this task force. Its purpose will be to share experiences and to collaborate on all relevant plans and developments aimed to assist individual companies and members of ENSCA to meet the required goals.

An important first step will be to define what can be considered a sustainable casing industry. Which processing steps need to be included? Varying from raw material at gut room level to ready-to-use casings delivered to sausage producers. What production profile is applicable to each individual European casing company and how are its day-to-day operations affected by the F2F strategy?

For these important initial steps we need your input and we trust responsible companies will step forward and offer their services.

Subsequent steps will include the development of an applicable CoC for the casing industry and a Road Map covering the three main sustainability pillars.

Attached to this PM is the UECBV annual CoC progress report to provide the necessary context on how the implementation of the F2F strategy can be executed. In case of UECBV, it is the template for EU associations that was used. It is lighter than for an European company.

Over the next years this important subject will return on the agenda of ENSCA General Assembly and respective Board meetings. Only by working together, for the interest and benefit of the European casing industry, can these goals be achieved.

Kind regards,

Heike Molkenthin.