



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN FOOD SCP ROUND TABLE WELCOMES 14 NEW MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

[UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 9 DECEMBER 2009, 9 AM]

Brussels, 9 December 2009: The European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production Round Table announced today that it has formally accepted new membership applications by fourteen EU level food chain organisations.

Launched on 6 May 2009, the Round Table can now count on the support of twenty-three European organisations from across the food chain, as well as the European Commission as co-chair, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Environment Agency (EEA). Several Member States are providing expertise to the Round Table.

The Round Table aims to establish scientifically reliable and uniform environmental assessment methodologies for food and drink products and to identify suitable means of voluntary communication along the supply chain as well as to consumers, in order to enable them to make informed choices. The Round Table aims to establish a framework assessment methodology by 2011.

In the six months since its launch, the Round Table has established a comprehensive work schedule, structured around a Steering Committee and four Working Groups, all co-chaired by the European Commission and the food chain constituencies. It has also begun developing principles for the voluntary environmental assessment of food products and communication of environmental information.

"We are pleased that so many new members have decided to join the Round Table. This gives us the critical mass we need to develop a robust European framework methodology endorsed by the whole food chain", said Pascal Gréverath, Nestlé Director of Environmental Sustainability, Co-chair of the Round Table Steering Committee, *"We are also actively encouraging representative NGOs and consumer groups to join the Round Table as equal constituencies, as their contributions are invaluable to facilitate consumer education and behavioural changes",* he continued.

"We welcome the great interest that the Round Table has created among food chain organisations. We wish to encourage in particular representatives from civil society and others who have relevant expertise to join the initiative", said Herbert Aichinger from the Commission's DG Environment and Co-chair of the Round Table Steering Committee, *"This Round Table offers a unique opportunity for the whole European food chain and its stakeholders to develop a common set of methodologies and tools to meet the challenges set out in the EU's Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan."*

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For all enquiries contact: Rocco Renaldi, Food SCP Round Table Secretariat

Tel: +32 473 401827 | E-mail: info@food-scp.eu



Notes for editors

About the European Food SCP Round Table: The Round Table aims to establish the European food chain as a major contributor towards sustainable consumption and production in Europe. Its activities will not only strengthen the long-term competitiveness of the European food chain, but also support several EU policy objectives, including those outlined in the European Commission's Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy. The life-cycle approach requires the involvement of all food value chain members on an equal footing - a fundamental feature of the Round Table. The Round Table is also taking into account the global SCP agenda, including the initiatives facilitated by UNEP and other European and global organisations to advance resource efficiency, sustainable value chains and social responsibility.

Key objectives: The Round Table is seeking to:

1. identify scientifically reliable and uniform environmental assessment methodologies for food and drink products, including product category specifications where relevant, considering their significant impacts across the entire product life-cycle;
2. identify suitable communication tools to consumers and other stakeholders and develop guidance on their use, looking at all channels and means of communication;
3. promote and report on continuous environmental improvement along the entire food supply chain and engage in an open dialogue with its stakeholders.

Membership: Round Table member organisations must belong to one of the following constituencies:

1. Suppliers to the agricultural sector
2. Farmers and agri-cooperatives
3. Agricultural trade
4. Food and drink industries
5. Packaging value chain
6. Transport & logistics operators
7. Retailers
8. End-of-life: packaging recovery organisations, waste industry
9. Consumer NGOs
10. Environmental/nature conservation NGOs

The European Commission participates in the RT as a co-chairing organisation. Different Commission departments (DG Environment, DG Joint Research Centre, DG Health & Consumers and DG Enterprise) co-chair the Round Table Working Groups and the Steering Committee together with representatives of the food chain constituencies. Other European Commission services (including DG Agriculture and Rural Development, DG Transport and Energy and DG Research) also participate actively in the Round Table.

UNEP and EEA participate in the Round Table as supporting organisations. Observer organisations and individual experts are invited as appropriate. Several Member State experts participate in the Round Table Working Groups.



Founding member organisations:

CELCAA	European Liaison Committee of Agricultural and Agro-Food Trade
CIAA	Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries in the EU
COPA-COGECA	European Farmers and European Agri-cooperatives
EFMA	European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association
EUROCOOP	European Community of Consumer Cooperatives
EUROPEN	The European Organization for Packaging and the Environment
FEFAC	European Feed Manufacturers Federation
IFAH-Europe	International Federation for Animal Health – Europe
PRO EUROPE	Packaging Recovery Organisation Europe

Other member organisations:

ACE	The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment
APEAL	European Producers of Steel for Packaging
a.v.e.c.	Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU
EAA	European Aluminium Association
ECPA	The European Crop Protection Association
Empac	European Metal Packaging
EMRA	European Modern Restaurants Association
EuropaBio	The European Association for Bio-Industries
EuPC	European Plastics Converters
European Bioplastics	
FEFANA	European Feed Additives and Premixtures Association
FEFCO	European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers
FPE	Flexible Packaging Europe
PFP	Primary Food Processors of the EU

Co-chairing organisation:

EC	European Commission
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Supporting organisations:

UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
EEA	European Environment Agency

Interested parties wishing to participate actively in the RT are kindly invited to contact the RT Secretariat (info@food-scp.eu)

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