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# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EUROPEAN SUGAR INDUSTRY**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **I - INTRODUCTION**

Corporate Social Responsibility in the European Sugar Industry is a framework within which we as a sector have voluntarily decided to promote social development as well as respect for fundamental rights. Through the creation of this framework we recognise that Corporate Social Responsibility is becoming increasingly important and thus commit ourselves to pursue and demonstrate the overall sustainability of the sugar industry<sup>1</sup>. As an industry, our companies are not only responsible for their products and services but also for the conditions under which they are produced.

For a number of years the European Sugar Industry has already given its support to a European social model through a whole series of guarantees going well beyond legal requirements. It is a social model in which the involvement of the employees in the social dialogue at all levels is one of the major elements.

This is why the Social Partners decided to take a joint initiative on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Now this CSR framework in the European Sugar Industry goes even further and sets voluntary minimum standards in a number of areas such as human rights, education and training, health and safety, pay and working conditions, restructuring, as well as relationship between social partners.

Moreover, this framework has been created to serve as a vehicle for sharing experiences and will function as a source for learning to develop best practice throughout the whole European Sugar Industry as an inspiration for continuous improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> In this context the European Sugar Industry covers the Members of the CEFS operating in countries where the CEFS is represented and within the field of activity of the CEFS - See list of CEFS Members in Annex II.

Finally, it clearly positions the European Sugar Industry in relation to our stakeholders, be they employees, consumers, customers, shareholders, suppliers, public and financial authorities, the European Commission or the World Trade Organisation.

Our vision for this work is to create added human and social value by incorporating Corporate Social Responsibility into all our activities.

Our approach will be built upon a holistic view, transparency and an open dialogue with our stakeholders, also on other CSR issues and developments.

## **II - MINIMUM STANDARDS**

The Members of the CEFS in the countries where the CEFS is represented undertake to comply with the minimum standards set out below and, as appropriate, to promote these standards beyond the area of activities for which the CEFS has a mandate (see Annex II). These voluntary standards of a general scope are usually much lower than the standards actually applicable in the Union. The respect of these standards shall not constitute a valid reason for reducing pre-existing higher standards, on the contrary.

### **1 HUMAN RIGHTS**

The European Sugar Industry complies with the principles and rights at work as defined by the ILO and in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European legislation.

The European Sugar Industry:

- a) respects the freedom of association and thus the right for all workers to establish trade unions and to affiliate, including for workers representatives the right of access to the enterprise (ILO convention 87).
- b) recognizes the effective right to collective bargaining as well as the right for worker representatives to get facilities as appropriate in order to carry out their functions promptly and efficiently. (ILO conventions 98 and 135).
- c) confirms the fact that exercising these rights won't cause any personal or professional damage to the workers and their representatives.
- d) will not operate with any form of forced or compulsory labour (ILO Convention 29).
- e) is opposed to child labour (Convention 182) and meets ILO convention 138 in relation to the minimum age for admission to employment.
- f) Is against all discrimination, be it based on ethnic or national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, affiliation to trade union, age or political affiliation and undertakes in particular to guarantee and promote equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women (ILO conventions 100 and 111 – EU directives n° 76/207/EEC of 9.2.1976, n° 2000/43/EC of 29.06.2000 and n° 2000/78/EC of 27.11.2000).

## **2 EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL AND LIFE LONG TRAINING**

The European Sugar Industry endeavours to invest in its employees by providing them with the best possible skills and abilities in order to develop their individual potential to the maximum, and thereby contributes to the success and competitiveness of the enterprise. It gives specific training to employees as regards technical aspects connected with the production process and the field of health and safety at the workplace, and all other relevant aspects connected with the enterprise.

Education and training constitute an integral part of the social dialogue in the companies. Proposals and initiatives by the employees and their representatives are welcome and will be implemented in accordance with national habits.

The European sugar industry recommends to sugar companies, whenever economically and socially feasible, to make a significant effort to offer more young people training periods and places as apprentices in order to improve their skills on the labour market.

## **3 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The European Sugar Industry pays special attention to health and safety. This is why the Sugar Industry strives to create working conditions that give its employees the possibility to work considering the human aspect and particularly without any risk for their health. In cooperation with the Employees and their representatives, the Sugar Industry will care for a healthy and safe working environment based on secure facts and practices regarding work protection; all preventive measures on health and safety are considered as a priority. The sugar industry does not only pay special attention to the European legislations on health and safety and, in particular, the framework directive of 1989, but in most cases, it goes beyond the legislations.

Specific training programmes, safety procedures and policies, tailor-made for the sugar industry and taking into account the specific hazards linked to the manufacturing process, are implemented in all sugar factories and pay special attention to prevention.

## **4 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIAL PARTNERS**

The social partners of the European sugar industry - represented by the Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre (CEFS) and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism (EFFAT) - consider that a constructive social dialogue with the employees representatives and trade unions at all levels is an important element for a successful functioning of enterprises. Informing and consulting the employees representatives promotes confidence and cooperation between employees and employers.

This is why the sugar industry has steadily carried out a social dialogue at European level since 1969, officially recognized by the European Commission by the creation in 1999 of a sectorial dialogue committee for the sugar industry. Furthermore the social partners have jointly developed a certain number of surveys and vocational training programmes, particularly in the field of safety. They will continue with and further develop this dialogue.

At national level, the representation of employees and collective bargaining apply in accordance with the legislation and often go beyond.

The European legislation on information and consultation is implemented in all companies.

In connection with the enlargement of the European Union, the social partners express the wish that, with the complementary assistance and support of the public authorities, a genuinely constructive and responsible dialogue can be established with a view to laying the foundations for an enlarged Europe capable of combining social model with economic competitiveness in the applicant countries.

## **5 FAIR PAY**

The present pay levels in the sugar industry meet or exceed the minimum rates provided for by branch or industry collective agreements and/or legal provisions. When no agreement or pay scale exists, wages are enough to ensure that workers and their families have a decent standard of living as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Tripartite Declaration<sup>2</sup>.

In order to avoid any discrimination, the sugar industry also recognizes the right for employees in similar conditions to get equal pay for equal work (ILO Convention 100, EU Treaty 141, Directive 2000/78/EC).

## **6 WORKING CONDITIONS**

The European Sugar Industry meets the European legislation covering working conditions and complies with branch or industry standards on working hours. As far as working time during the processing season is concerned, special agreements may have been concluded between the Social Partners or with the Public Authorities.

When no standard exists, the social partners can conclude appropriate agreements. At least working conditions must be equivalent to those offered by comparable employers in the country concerned.

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<sup>2</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Art. 23: "everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity".

ILO Tripartite Declaration : "Wages, benefits and conditions of work offered by multinational enterprises should not be less favourable to the workers than those offered by comparable employers in the country concerned".

## **7 RESTRUCTURING**

At European level, within the framework of the European social dialogue, regular information, exchanges of views and, if necessary, joint action can be organised in relation to all issues, including those related to the Community policy and the Community legislations where they have economic and social effects for the sugar sector.

This dialogue meets or exceeds the national and European legislation on information and consultation.

Since an open dialogue between management and employees is a pre-requisite for a climate of mutual respect and confidence, employees and their representatives will be regularly kept aware of the situation of the enterprise as well as informed and consulted on planned restructuring measures in due time.

In case of restructuring, as well as in the event of investments having a social impact as provided by the present Code of Conduct, the sugar industry acts in a socially responsible way.

Steps are taken to improve the employability of employees.

## **8 BUSINESS RELATIONS AND CHOICE OF SUPPLIERS**

The European Sugar Industry expects a socially responsible behaviour from its suppliers. Suppliers are generally chosen on a professional business basis, but for major suppliers this also includes a consideration of their corporate social responsibility according to the provisions of this Code of Conduct. The European Sugar Industry will thus contribute to circulate the concept of corporate social responsibility at global level and see if it can make a concrete contribution to the fight of child labour.

It supports all European provisions aimed at counteracting fraud and corruption in the trade developed with different countries of the world<sup>3</sup> and, in the general context of business ethics, undertakes to comply with the OECD guidelines for multinational companies, or, beyond the CEFS area of activities, to promote them as far as possible.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Regulation on the General Scheme of Preferences n° 2501/2001 of 1012.2001-OJEC L 346 of 31.12.2001, art. 26, and withdrawal or suspension provisions included in different regulations as regulation 2007/2000/EC on Balkans, as well as in bilateral agreements.

<sup>4</sup> See the OECD Website: "<http://www.OECD.org>"

### **III - MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, UPDATING**

1. The EFFAT and the CEFS will, within the context of their Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee, ensure the monitoring of the progressive implementation of this Code of Conduct and the regular updating of the examples of good practice.
2. To this effect the EFFAT and the CEFS will conduct a joint assessment of the implementation of the Code of Conduct at European level, in the form of an annual report covering the calendar year and to be presented in February of the following year, within the framework of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee, at a meeting specifically devoted to this subject
3. This annual report will be prepared on the basis of data collected by the European social partners. To this effect, every year the EFFAT and the CEFS will designate an ad hoc group which will be responsible for the process of collecting, preparing and presenting these data and including two Sectoral Committee members from each organisation.
4. This Code of Conduct will come into effect on January 1st 2004. The year preceding this date will be devoted to prepare for its implementation. The first report, to be presented in February 2004, will take stock of the activities undertaken so far and the monitoring structures jointly arranged at European level to ensure adequate communication, promotion and training on the CSR Code of Conduct. The examples of good practice will also be updated as needed.
5. To ensure a wide dissemination and good understanding of the Code of Conduct at national level, it will be translated into the different European languages by the national delegations. The French, English and German versions will be deemed authentic.

Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003



**Jean-Louis BARJOL**  
General Director  
CEFS



**Harald WIEDENHOFER**  
Secretary General  
EFFAT

# **Annex I to the CSR Code of Conduct of the European Sugar Industry**

## **Examples of good practice**

***See separate document***

# ANNEX II TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

## List of CEFS Members

The European Sugar Industry covers the Members of the CEFS operating in countries where the CEFS is represented and within the field of activity of the CEFS.

Country	Associations	Companies
AUSTRIA		<b><u>Agrana Zucker und Stärke AG</u></b> Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen-Platz 1 Postfach 345 A-1020 WIEN Tel: +43/1/211 37 0 Fax: +43/1/211 37 29 98
BELGIUM	<b><u>SUBEL</u></b> 182, Avenue de Tervuren B-1150 Bruxelles Tel: +32/2/775 80 69 Fax: +32/2/775 80 75	
DENMARK		<b><u>Nordic Sugar (update October 2009)</u></b> Langebrogade 1 PO BOX 2100 1014 COPENHAGEN K Tel: +45/32 66 25 00 Fax: +45/32 66 21 50
FINLAND		<b><u>FINNSUGAR Ltd</u></b> Sokeritehtaantie 20 FIN-02460 KANTVIK Tel: +35/89/297 41 Fax: +35/89/297 47 44
FRANCE	<b><u>Syndicat National des Fabricants de Sucre de France</u></b> 23, Avenue Iéna F-75783 PARIS Cedex 16 Tel: +33/1/49 52 66 66 Fax: +33/1/40 70 10 79 <b><u>Syndicat des Fabricants de Sucre de la Réunion</u></b> B. P. 284 97 466 ST-DENIS CEDEX LA REUNION Tel: +262/262/58 82 65 Fax: +262/262/46 53 01 <b><u>Chambre Syndicale des Raffineurs de Sucre de France</u></b> 23, Avenue Iéna F-75783 PARIS CEDEX 16 Tel: +33/1/49 52 66 66 Fax: +33/1/40 70 10 79	
GERMANY	<b><u>Verein der Zuckerindustrie</u></b> 8, Am Hofgarten D-53113 BONN Tel: +49/228/22 85 0 Fax: +49/228/22 85 102	
GREECE		<b><u>Hellenic Sugar Industry S.A.</u></b> 34, Mitropoleos Street GR-54623 THESSALONIKI Tel: +30/2310/26 95 55 Fax: +30/2310/228 029
HUNGARY	<b><u>Syndicate of Hungarian Sugar Industry</u></b> Komocsy u.41 H-1141 BUDAPEST Tel: +36/1/383 35 26 Fax: +36/1/383 19 30	



Country	Associations	Companies
IRELAND		<b><u>Irish Sugar Ltd</u></b> Athy Road IRL-CARLOW Tel: +353/503/31 487 Fax: +353/503/43 087
ITALY	<b><u>Associazione Nazionale fra gli Industriali dello Zucchero</u></b> 3/3 Piazza Campitelli I-00186 ROMA Tel: +39/06/678 11 53 Fax: +39/06/699 00 34	
NETHERLANDS		<b><u>CSM Suiker bv</u></b> Postbus 349 NL-1000 AH AMSTERDAM Tel: +31/20/590 69 11 Fax/ +31//20/695 25 27 <b><u>Suiker Unie</u></b> 113, Noordzeedijk NL-4671 TL DINTELOORD Tel: +31/165/52 52 52 Fax:+31/165/52 50 20
PORTUGAL	<b><u>Associação dos Refinadores de Açúcar Portugueses</u></b> 412, Avenida da Republica P-2750-475 CASCAIS Tel: +351/21 484 74 40 Fax: +351/21 484 74 41 <b><u>DAI – Sociedade de Desenvolvimento Agro-Industrials S.A.</u></b> Monte da Barca P-2100-052 CORUCHE Tel: +351/243/610 600 Fax: +351/243/610 602	
SLOVAKIA	<b><u>Slovak Association of Sugar Producers</u></b> Safarikovo nám. 4 811 02 BRATISLAVA Tel : +421/47/5631 059	
SLOVENIA		<b><u>Tovarna Sladkorja D. D.</u></b> Opekarska Cest 4 p.p. 37 2270 ORMOZ Tel: +386/2/741 03 28
SPAIN	<b><u>Asociación General de Fabricantes de Azúcar de España</u></b> c/ Montalbán, 11 E-28014 MADRID Tel: +34/91/522 84 32 Fax: +34/91/531 06 08	
SWEDEN		<b><u>Nordic Sugar AB (update October 2009)</u></b> S-20504 Malmö Phone: +45 40 53 70 Fax: +46 404367 17
SWITZERLAND		<b><u>Zuckerfabriken Aarberg + Frauenfeld AG</u></b> Postfach 16 CH-3270 AARBERG Tel: +41/32/391 62 00 Fax: +41/32/391 62 40
UNITED KINGDOM		<b><u>British Sugar Plc.</u></b> Oundle Road UK-PE2 9QU PETERBOROUGH Tel: +44/1733/563 171 Fax: +44/1733/422 418 <b><u>Tate &amp; Lyle Plc.</u></b> Factory Road UK-E16 2EW LONDON Tel: +44/20/7626 65 25 Fax: +44/20/7816 27 27

**FOR INFORMATION: EFFAT MEMBERS**

This Code of Conduct only covers the European sugar industry, as it is described on footnote 1 of page 1

<b>ALBANIA</b>	<i>Sindikata E Pavarur E Ushqumit, Tregtise Dhe Bankave Te Shgiperise (SPUTBSH)</i>
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	<i>Gewerkschaft Agrar-Nahrung-Genuß (ANG)</i>
<b>BELGIUM</b>	<i>Centrale Chrétienne de l'Alimentation et dese Services (CCAS-CSC)</i>
	<i>Centrale des Travailleurs de l'Alimentation et de l'Hôtellerie (FGTB)</i>
	<i>CGSLB-ACLVB (cooperation in the sugar sector)</i>
<b>BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA</b>	<i>Samostalni Sindikat Radnika Poljoprivrede, Prehrambene I Duhanske Industrije i Vodoprivrede, Ugostiteljstva, Turizma i Trgovine Republike BiH (PPDIVUT)</i>
<b>BULGARIA</b>	<i>Federation of Independent Trade Unions in the Food Industry (FITU-Food)</i>
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<i>Nezávislý Odborový Svaz Pracovníku potravinářského průmyslu a příbuzných oburu Cech a Moravy (NOS PPP)</i>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<i>Sindikat zaposlenih u poljoprivredi, prehrambenoj i duhanskoj industriji i vodoprivedi Hrvatske (PPDIV)</i>
<b>CYPRUS</b>	<i>Cyprus Industrial Employees' Federation (OVIEK-SEK)</i>
<b>DENMARK</b>	<i>Naerings-og Nydelsesmiddelarbejderforbundet (NNF)</i>
	<i>SID Industry</i>
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<i>Eesti toiduainetetöötajate ametiühingute Liit (ETMK) Estonian Food Worker and Landworker's Union</i>
<b>FINLAND</b>	<i>Suomen Elintarviketyöläuisten Liitto r.y. (SEL)</i>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<i>Fédération Générale Agroalimentaire CFTD (FGA-CFTD)</i>
	<i>Fédération générale des Travailleurs de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, des tabacs et allumettes et des services annexes - Force Ouvrière (FGTA-FO)</i>
	<i>Fédération Nationale Agroalimentaire et Forestière (FNAF-CGT)</i>
<b>GERMANY</b>	<i>Gewerkschaft Nahrung-Genuß-Gaststätten (NGG)</i>
<b>GREECE</b>	<i>Panellinia Omospondia Ergaton Eπισιτισμου kai Ypallelon Touristiko Epaggelmaton Fédération Panhellénique des Travailleurs de l'alimentation et des hôtels (POEEYTE)</i>
<b>HUNGARY</b>	<i>Magyar Élelmészisipari Dolgozók Szakszervezeteinek Szövetsége (EDOSZ)</i>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<i>Bakers' Food &amp; Allied Workers' Union (BFAWU)</i>
<b>ITALY</b>	<i>Federazione Agricola Alimentare Ambientale Industriale (FAI CISL)</i>
	<i>Federazione dei Lavoratori dell' Agroindustria (FLAI-CGIL)</i>
	<i>Unione Italiana Lavoratori Agroalimentari (UILA-UIL)</i>
<b>LETTONIA</b>	<i>Latvian Agriculture and Food Trade Union (LATU)</i>
	<i>Latvijas Partikas Rupniecibas Arodbiedriba / Latvian Food Workers (LPRA)</i>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<i>Lietuvos Maistininku Profesinė Sajunga (LMP)/Lithuanian Trade Union of Food producers)</i>

<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	<i>Lëtzebuenger Chrëschtliche Gewerkschaftsbond (LCGB)</i> <i>Fédération Commerce et Alimentation</i>
	<i>Syndikat Nahrung, Genuß, Gaststätten (O.G.B-L)</i>
<b>MALTA</b>	<i>General Worker's Union (GWU)</i>
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<i>FNV-Bondgenoten (FNV-BG)</i>
	<i>CNV Bedrijvenbond</i>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<i>Norsk Nærings-og Nytelsesmiddelarbeiderforbund (NNN)</i>
<b>POLAND</b>	<i>Sekretariat Przemyslu Spozywczego NSZZ "SOLIDARNOSC" (Food)</i>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<i>Federação Dos Sindicatos de Alimentação, Bebidas, Hotelaria e Turismo de Portugal (FESAHT)</i>
	<i>Sindicato da Agricultura Alimentação, e Florestas (SETAA)</i>
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<i>Federatia Nationala a Sindicatelor din agricultura, alimentajte, tutun, domeni si servicii conexe (AGROSTAR)</i>
	<i>Centrala Sindicatelor Lucratorilor din Agricultura si Alimentatie (CERES)</i>
	<i>Federatia Sindicatelor Libere din Industria Alimentara (FSIA)</i> <i>Fédération des Syndicats de l'Industrie Alimentaire</i>
	<i>Federatia Sindicatelor Libere din Morarit si Panificatie (FSLMP)</i>
	<i>Federatia Sindicatelor Independentente din Hoteluri-Restaurante Comert si Ind. Alimentara (HORIA)</i>
<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>	<i>Odborový zväz potravinárov Slovenska Republika (OZP)</i>
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	<i>Sindikar kmetijstva in zivilske industrije slovenije(KZI)</i>
<b>SPAIN</b>	<i>Federación agroalimentaria de CC.OO (FSIABT-CC.OO)</i>
	<i>Federacion Agroalimentaria (FTA-UGT)</i>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<i>Svenska Livsmedelsarbetare Förbundet (LIVS)</i>
	<i>Svenska Industritjänstemannaförbundet (SIF)</i> <i>(Swedish Union of Clerical and Technical Employees in Industry)</i>
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<i>Gewerkschaft Verkauf Handel Transport Lebensmittel (VHTL - FCTA)</i>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	<i>GMB</i>
	<i>Transport and General Workers' Union (TG&amp;U)</i>