



UEAPME working group on foodstuffs

The European organisation of small enterprises in the food sector

Food in Europe is safe, tasty and healthy.

What is it about?

Consumers can be reassured that all the food manufactured in the European Union meet the highest safety standards. This applies to food emanating from large-scale enterprises, and above all, to food manufactured in small firms, for example in butcher's, bakeries or confectioneries.

Yet this is not enough:

The numerous initiatives of the European Commission to promote health in food policy will affect the behaviour of consumers. There is a danger that temporary, short-lived fashion diets will serve as basis for legislation. In the absence of other control mechanisms the European Commission is supporting an extensive labeling strategy.

The European Commission is of the opinion that consumers are to be informed about food in a comprehensive manner. A large part of the responsibility regarding food will be shifted from the boards of control and the manufacturing enterprises to the consumers. Currently less than 1% of all consumers occasionally notice the comprehensive information, which is already at their disposal on all packed food in Europe. The listing of numerous ingredients, which may have passed a very complex permission process and do not constitute a health risk, might be perceived differently by the consumer.

This impression is strengthened by additional measures in the field of European food policy which disconcert consumers following the food scandals. UEAPME promotes for consumers to receive safe, healthy and tasty food in the greatest possible of varieties. The present European Union food policy seems only conditionally suitable for this.

The Activities of UEAPME in the Food Policy

UEAPME pleads actively for the interests of the small and medium sized enterprises in the food sector to be taken into account. The legislative process is not only "observed" but actively influenced by contributions. **UEAPME speaks to the European Commission, Parliament and other European institutions with one voice.** UEAPME plays a strong role in influencing European legislation.

Information to the members

UEAPME informs its members almost daily about current developments in the European food sector by means of **UEAPME_food_letter**, which is available in English. UEAPME informs its members throughout the legislative process, enabling them to assess the effects of the proposals at an early stage.

Sources and Possibilities for Lobbying

A UEAPME representative is present in the **meetings of the European Parliament** committee for environment, public health and food safety as well as the meetings of the agriculture committee - when food-relevant topics are discussed. UEAPME participates in all **"stakeholder meetings"**, organised by the European Commission which relate to issues such as food security, labelling, traceability or packing.

UEAPME is member of the **"Advisory Group on the Food chain"** recently created by the European Commission. The positions of small firms are expressed in the framework of this team of experts at the earliest possible stage of the legislative process. Close contacts also exist with the respective directors and specialists of the European Commission and with the parliament Rapporteurs for the individual law suggestions. UEAPME contributes actively to the setting up of a legal framework, within which small and medium sized enterprises are able to guarantee a balanced and healthy supply of food in Europe, in the interest of consumers and manufacturers.

UEAPME is represented in the **"Stakeholder Advisory Forum"** of the European Food Safety Agency EFSA. This forum was set up to initiate the safety of food ingredients and food processing and to look at the respective scientific research from different points of view. The collaboration was extremely successful during the last years and contributed to a trustful relation between consumers and food producers.

Collaboration with NORMAPME

The close co-operation with NORMAPME, the European office of the handicraft and the small and medium-sized enterprises for standardisation, allows UEAPME to provide input for the **technical Committees of CEN** in the field of standardisation at European level. In the CEN TC 158 an expert of NORMAPME is intensively involved in the consultation on standards and food machines.

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"UEAPME working group on foodstuffs" meets at least four times a year. Members of this working group are the **food experts of UEAPME member associations**, which provide both technical and political and legal expertise into the discussions. The following member associations regularly send experts to the meetings of the working group of UEAPME on foodstuffs:

BEAF, Bureau Européen de l'Artisanat Français, EU/F

CDM, Chambre des Métiers Luxembourg, LU

CGAD, Confédération Générale de l'Alimentation de Détail, F

CNA Alimentare, Confederazione Nazionale dell' Artigianato, I

CONFAPI, I

CONFARTIGIANATO, Italian Confederation of Craftsmen and SMEs, I

CONFESERCENTI, I

DEUTSCHER KONDITIONERBUND, D

CEBP, European Confederation of National Bakery and Confectionary Organis., EU

Danskslagtermestre, DA

MKB Nederland, NL

NAREDI, Fédération Belge de l'Industrie des Produits Naturels, B

NORMAPME, European Office of Crafts, Trades and SMEs for Standardisation, EU

UNIONALIMENTARI, I

Union Interprofessionnelle de la Pâtisserie et de la Chocolaterie, F

UNIZO, Unie van Zelfstandige Ondernemers, B

WKÖ, Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Bundesinnungsgruppe Lebensmittel, A

ZDH, Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerk, Brussels Office, D



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