



Specialised
Nutrition
Europe

Towards a Sustainable Europe: how the European specialised nutrition industry can contribute to the European Green Deal

At Specialised Nutrition Europe (SNE), representing the specialised nutrition industry in Europe, we are committed to addressing today's global challenges and improving European consumers' health and environment.

The specialised nutrition industry is at the crossroad between nutrition and health. We therefore support policies promoting increased collaboration in these areas across the value chain, in order to develop an integrated and sustainable European food policy.

We welcome the new 'European Green Deal' and the associated 'Farm to Fork Strategy' and look forward to working together with EU decision-makers and third-party stakeholders to facilitate the transition to a sustainable and healthy Europe, which addresses the UN sustainable development goals.

Together, let's work towards:



1

PROVIDING SAFE AND HIGH-QUALITY NUTRITION FROM FARM TO FORK

The continued **delivery of safe and high-quality nutritious food** is a non-negotiable responsibility of our sector. This will be critical to strengthen responses to today's societal challenges ranging from rising obesity rates to malnutrition. From the farm to the table, our sector will continue to foster collaboration across the food supply

chain to ensure **high-quality and responsibly sourced ingredients and raw materials** in our products. This includes regular checks for safety, quality and freshness. In addition, our strong relationships with farmers and suppliers ensure full traceability of ingredients.

*In order to continue to provide products of the highest possible level of safety and quality, we call for **greater harmonisation and consistency across all food related policies**. We also welcome the EU ambition to work across the supply chain towards the development of sustainable alternatives to pesticides.*



2

HELPING CONSUMERS TO MAKE THE HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE CHOICE

Our sector is committed to responding to consumer demand for more sustainable and healthy food, notably by **investing in organic farming**. Some of our member companies are already producing a majority of their products organically¹. Consumers also increasingly want to know where their food comes from and what it

contains. We will therefore continue to provide **reliable, comparable and verifiable information** to enable **consumers to make sustainable decisions**. Clear, easy to understand labelling allows consumers to make informed choices.

*As part of the EU's Farm to Fork strategy, we support efforts to promote **greater transparency through food information and product labelling**, allowing **healthier and sustainable diet choices for all**. By promoting multi-stakeholder initiatives and nutrition education programmes, the Farm to Fork strategy can also support us in promoting healthier food choices.*

¹ In accordance with EU regulations on organic production



3

LEVERAGING INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS FOR A HEALTHIER LIFE

Our sector is at the **forefront of innovation in nutritional science**. We invest in R&D to develop and market evidence-based innovation to **protect the health and wellbeing of European consumers with specific**

nutritional needs. Innovation is also key to guaranteeing the **high-level quality and safety requirements** our sector must meet as well as optimizing product packaging and storage.

*We welcome **European policies that support research & innovation in nutrition and health**, taking into consideration consumers' specialised nutrition needs and **delivering solutions to promote healthy ageing**. By ensuring that a majority of Horizon Europe projects work to achieve the aims of the Green Deal, significant progress can be made in areas such as the development of food for the future. To that end, we consider that it is essential that the EU institutions keep the proposed budget of €10 billion for the cluster on Food and Natural Resources².*



4

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND EXPORTS

Our sector is the third biggest agri-food exporter in Europe³ and we are committed to playing our role in

promoting an EU trade policy that can support transition towards more sustainable food systems.

*We call for an **ambitious EU trade policy which includes Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in all EU Free Trade Agreements**. This will help to ensure sustainability is achieved across the entire value chain. This will also ensure a level-playing field for European manufacturers.*



5

LEVERAGING OUR SECTOR'S EXPERTISE TO ACHIEVE A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Our industry is committed to promoting **sustainable growth at the heart of the EU economy**. A new circular economy action plan, focussing on a range of sectors, shall assist this transition. Our sector has **long experience of manufacturing specialised nutrition products** – one of the most strictly regulated foods in Europe. This has enabled us to develop the necessary expertise to improve how we select our materials, transport our ingredients and produce and store our products.

Over the years we have been able to identify optimal conditions for the manufacturing of specialised nutrition products with the objective to provide consumers with safe and nutritious foods, as well as to limit our environmental footprints (greenhouse gas emissions, water use, etc.). This helps **minimising the loss of resources and food waste**. In doing so, we are trying to play our part in achieving a more sustainable and circular economy.

*We are ready to continuously **support the transition to a circular economy at EU level** and support open stakeholder dialogues in which we can share our expertise and experience – so that we can implement – together – more sustainable business practices. As part of the European Industry strategy, we call on the EU to foster green investment for SMEs and companies of the sector.*

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en

³ Data & Trends, EU Food & Drink Industry 2019, FoodDrinkEurope

About SNE

SNE is the voice of the **specialised nutrition industry in Europe**. SNE's members are the **national associations of 19 European countries**, which represent the manufacturers of specialised nutrition present in each country. These include infants and young children, patients under medical supervision, sportspeople, overweight and obese consumers, and those suffering from coeliac disease.

How to reach us

Prof. Udo Herz
President SNE
udo.herz@danone.com
+32 2 508 10 70
Av. des Nerviens 9-31,
1040 Brussels, Belgium



<https://www.specialisednutritioneurope.eu/>

Aurélie Perrichet
Executive Director SNE
a.perrichet@specialisednutritioneurope.eu
+32 2 508 10 70
Av. des Nerviens 9-31,
1040 Brussels, Belgium