



Food Safety in the EU: a story of success
Challenges and opportunities for the future

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Index

I. Who are Copa and Cogeca?

II. How is Copa-Cogeca organised?

III. The General Food Law (GFL)

**IV. Risk assessment in the EU:
the role of EFSA**

V. Our way forward

I. Who are Copa and Cogeca

Who are Copa and Cogeca:

- Copa: Created in 1958, Copa represents 23 million European farmers and family members.
- Cogeca: Created in 1959, Cogeca represents 22,000 European agricultural cooperatives.

Mission:

- To ensure a sustainable, innovative and competitive EU agriculture and agri-food sector capable of meeting growing food demand

How?

- By promoting European farmers and agri-cooperatives views to influence EU decision-makers, media, public opinion



II. How is Copa-Cogeca organised?

Commodities and Trade

- 25 Working Groups
- Current issues: trade negotiations, future of food and farming, quality, food and feed safety legislation, etc

General Affairs

- Specific Working Groups on quality of agricultural production, food policy, food & feed safety, food chain, etc



45 working parties



Prepare joint Copa & Cogeca's positions



copa*cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives

**Farmers,
First producers of
FOOD**

#Farmers4Sustainability

#Farmers4CAP

#FutureofCAP

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III. The General Food Law (GFL)

15 Anniversary General Food Law (GFL):

- It is crucial to ensure that the main objectives of this important piece of legislation are met and are effectively implemented
- EU farmers and their cooperatives recognise the big achievement by the adoption of the food and feed safety principles of the GFL
- The key elements for farmers and their Cooperatives are:



- Guaranteeing a **high level** of protection of **human and animal health**
- **Shielding** consumers **against misleading** and fraudulent practices
- An effective functioning of the **internal market**
- An integrated approach **from farm to fork**

IV. Risk assessment in the EU: the role of EFSA

- Copa and Cogeca are and have always been a **strong supporter** of the mission and objectives of EFSA ever since its inception
- We fully support the steps taken to guarantee that EFSA assumed its role of an **independent, transparent and efficient EU authority** that ensures safe food to European consumers
- Copa and Cogeca acknowledge the need for risk assessment (RA) to take place in a transparent and independent environment. This is fundamental to guarantee unbiased RA
- It is essential to find the balance between transparency, independence and innovation
- EFSA's work clearly require professional judgment, which needs to be achieved by respecting the **highest standards of scientific expertise** -> Essential to continue to attract the best talent and new experts to EFSA's work



IV. Risk assessment in the EU: the role of EFSA

- When it comes to **communication** – It is vital that risk assessments and scientific reports are communicated in a **balanced, professional and pragmatic way**
- **Science cannot be politicised**, nor can it spread widely unfounded information as this could unsettle the public and create market problems
- **Harmonised EU safety assessments** (e.g. MRLs) and trust in the food chain are important elements to foster growth and competitiveness, to protect the functioning of the internal market and to support the EU's trade agenda
- Essential to strength the role of EFSA by ensuring greater **consistency between** the different **EU risk assessment bodies**, attracting **good scientists**, providing **predictability** and guaranteeing **support** from the public authorities



V. Our way forward

Essential to ensure science-based decisions:

- It is necessary to remind that the GFL contributed to the establishment of EFSA, which plays a key role in providing scientific opinions and guarantees to EU consumers
- Decisions related to safety in the EU must be supported by **sound scientific basis**



Proportionality:

- This strong scientific basis must lead to the development of the relevant and necessary measures following a risk-based approach
- At all times, the less burdensome and onerous approach for operators must also be ensured



V. Our way forward

Stability:

- A reliable EU policy framework, especially at times when there are uncertainties on the markets, is fundamental, so that farmers can plan ahead
- EU legislation must contribute to enhance the competitiveness of the sector



Consistency:

- Adapted to the specificities of the different countries and types of production – EU legislation must be applied in a consistent manner
- It is essential to ensure a level playing field and a proper functioning of the internal market
- Support to EU initiatives such as “Better training for safer food”



V. Our way forward

Further coordination is essential:

- Coordination between the sector and Public Authorities is essential
- Need to further reinforce further coordination and a good functioning of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) to anticipate and take the right decisions
- Important to reinforce the synergies between private (quality certification schemes) and public controls to avoid duplications



Risk communication:

- Essential to develop professional communication to avoid unfounded information being spread that could unsettle the public
- Food education is essential to ensure EU consumers have good knowledge about food – less driven by feelings



V. Our way forward

Promotion of our high safety standards

- The EU must continue to promote our highest safety standards – they will not be compromised by Free Trade agreements

A strong and common CAP that continues to support a sustainable, competitive and innovative agri-food sector

- Food and feed safety is of paramount importance and a priority for the agri-food sector
- Important also to avoid red tape and to help the European agricultural sector to be more competitive, innovative and sustainable reducing the administrative burden



Future of CAP

Copa andCogeca

Promoting and
developing a
sustainable model
of agriculture



www.copa-cogeca.eu