

## **‘Securing a sustainable food chain’**

Dear,

Today’s food systems are facing a number of global challenges. The rise in global demand for safe and nutritious food, increasing urban population, finite natural resources and the impact of climate change are all examples of interrelated challenges that impact the sustainability of food systems. In response to this, there is an urgent need to develop a holistic approach in order to guarantee the sustainability of food systems for future generations.

In 2014, representatives of the European food chain, Trade Unions and NGOs have called for a more coherent policy approach to safeguarding the sustainability of food systems and presented 32 concrete policy recommendations<sup>1</sup>.

These recommendations were positively received by EU policy makers, however, it was noticed that this topic has since faded from the European political agenda.

Furthermore, with the upcoming adoption of the UN post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and a new global climate framework, the undersigned reconfirm their commitment to work together along the food chain and with public authorities, towards making the European food chain more sustainable.

Within this context, we invite Commissioners and policy makers to support our priorities identified in the 2014 Joint Declaration entitled ‘*Actions towards a sustainable food system*’. These recommendations should be considered as a basis for the future work of the renewed EU High Level Forum (HLF) for a better functioning food supply chain<sup>2</sup> and for a coherent and more effective work with other/existing sustainability fora.

Thank you for taking into account the above elements, we look forward to a continued fruitful collaboration in view of the expected renewal of the HLF.

The Stakeholder Dialogue Group on Food Sustainability

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<sup>1</sup> High Level Forum for a better functioning food supply chain, 2014 Report, p. 23, [http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/positions\\_documents/Declaration\\_Sustainability\\_of\\_Food\\_Systems.pdf](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu/uploads/positions_documents/Declaration_Sustainability_of_Food_Systems.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> High Level Forum for a better functioning food supply chain, [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/food/competitiveness/high-level-group/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/food/competitiveness/high-level-group/index_en.htm).

