

Press release

PFP on Council's general approach to the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive

The Primary Food Processors ([PFP](#)) association welcomes the general approach of the Council on the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) that was reached at the Environmental Council meeting on 16 March 2023.

The compromise agreement of the Council is rather balanced. Most importantly, it rejects the proposal of the Commission to set the strictest possible Emission Limit Values. This proposal would be unworkable due to the differences between Member States and operators' processes. Unfortunately, Member States did not find a satisfactory compromise on two important aspects of a business environment in the EU, namely: article 13 on the sharing of confidential business information under the Sevilla process; and article 15 on the implementation of environmental performance limit values.

- Confidential business information or commercially sensitive information often plays a key role in the determination of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and derivation of BAT Associated Emission Levels (AELs). The transfer of confidential and commercially sensitive data should be limited to the Commission and its disclosure to national competent authorities, who are bound by law to an obligation of professional secrecy. Data should only be shared with third-party actors, including non-governmental organisations, after undergoing aggregation and anonymisation to make it less sensitive. We regret that the Council did not reject the Commission's proposal to give preferential treatment to outside actors compared to their technical working group (TWG) industry colleagues who are not receiving this information.
- Environmental performance limit values, for example on consumption levels, resource efficiency, levels of water and energy resources and waste levels, should not become binding. Considering that there are already numerous environmental regulations in the EU that address environmental performance levels, there is the risk of inconsistent EU regulations. The setting of these limits should be left to the discretion of Member States and operators.

In order to preserve the competitiveness of the EU's primary food processing industries, concrete improvements are urgently needed to Articles 13 and 15 of the Commission's proposal.

The **Primary Food Processors of the EU (PFP)** is composed of:

European Committee of Sugar Manufacturers ([CEFS](#))

European Cocoa Association ([ECA](#))

European Flour Milling Association ([European Flour Millers](#))

European Starch Industry Association ([Starch Europe](#))

European Vegetable Protein Association ([EUVEPRO](#))

European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry ([FEDIOL](#))

PFP members process approximately **220 million tons of raw materials** (cereals, sugar beet, rapeseeds, soybeans, sunflower seeds, crude vegetable oil, cocoa products, starch potatoes...) **employing over 120 000 people** in the European Union.