



Agri-food supply chain “societally-critical”, securing gas supply vital to maintain EU food supplies

Copa-Cogeca, Primary Food Processors, and FoodDrinkEurope welcome the recognition that the agri-food supply chain is considered to be a “societally-critical” sector in the EU’s “Save Gas for a Safe Winter” initiative, which was endorsed by EU Member States on 26 July 2022.

As EU Member States decided to reduce gas demand by 15% next winter in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, they agreed they should prioritise measures that do not affect protected customers, such as households and essential services for the functioning of society such as critical entities like food production (including food, drink and petfood).

Indeed, any disruption to the gas supply would prevent food and feed producers from operating farms and manufacturing plants at full capacity. This would impact the availability and affordability of agricultural commodities, food and drinks supplied to consumers and feed for animals, with a serious risk of shortages.

Following the agreement among Member States at EU level, the agri-food sector organisations call on the EU Member States to recognise the agri-food chain as a critical sector in their national emergency plans and ensure that entities critical for food production (including packaging) are not decoupled from the grid in case of shortages. Equally, European agri-food value chain operators remain committed to continue improving the energy efficiency of their operations.

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About us:

[Copa and Cogeca](#) are the united voice of farmers and agri-cooperatives in the EU. Together, they ensure that EU agriculture is sustainable, innovative and competitive, guaranteeing food security to half a billion people throughout Europe. Copa represents 22 million farmers and their families whilst Cogeca represents the interests of 22,000 agricultural cooperatives. They have 66 member organisations from the EU member states.

[FoodDrinkEurope](#) represents the food and drink manufacturing industry. Made up of 289,000 businesses and 4.5 million workers, the food and drink industry buys 70% of all EU agricultural produce and is one of Europe’s largest manufacturing industries.

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