

Brussels, 20 September 2022

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE ON THE RED REVISION: USE OF RESIDUES BY PRIMARY FOOD PROCESSORS TO PRODUCE GREEN ENERGY NEEDS TO BE FURTHER FACILITATED

On Wednesday 14 September the European Parliament voted its position on the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

MEPs rejected PFP's call for a new sub-annex to facilitate the use of biomass residues in stationary installations to decarbonise factory processes in the primary food processing industry. The amendment failed to pass despite being approved by the ENVI Committee (albeit with reference to Annex VI rather than Annex IX).

MEPs also voted to make the sustainability criteria under the RED subject to the waste hierarchy and cascading use principle. However, it is unclear how the cascading use principle would apply in practice.

More positively, MEPs struck down the European Commission's proposal to modify Annex VI to assign field emissions to non-Annex IX residues and wastes. This is a step forward, improving on the position of both the Commission and Member States.

MEPs also voted to make the greenhouse gas emission reduction criteria under Art. 29(10) non-retroactive. This would safeguard existing investments in biomass installations, including in the primary food processing sector. It would recognise the contribution such installations play in decarbonising the EU economy and reducing the EU's dependence on fossil fuels. However, the European Parliament voted to increase the greenhouse gas emission reduction threshold for new biomass installations to 85% after 2026, above the Council's position of 80%.

It is essential that primary food processors can use residues and wastes to produce green energy. This is particularly the case in isolated rural areas, where an absence high-voltage grid connections doesn't allow for direct electrification. The EU mustn't opt for a one size fits all option. The EU's food sovereignty depends on it.

end

**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 Vegetable Protein Federation (EUVEPRO)**

**European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry (FEDIOL)**

**European Starch Industry Association (Starch Europe)**