



The Vital Link in the Food Chain Ref.23PFP016

PFP Statement on the release of the EFSA opinion on Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons

Brussels, 14 September 2023 - Primary Food Processors (PFP) take note of conclusions of the updated opinion on the Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOH) in food that was released yesterday by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Mineral oil hydrocarbons (MOH) contamination of foods is a serious issue that has been addressed by our sectors for several years. As highlighted by EFSA, different sources of MOH in food have been identified, including environmental contamination, use of lubricants for machinery, release agents, processing aids, food or feed additives, migration from food contact materials.

Our members have been engaging in different actions to tackle the issue, like identification of MOH routes for their products, understanding of the analytical challenges, engagement with a wide range of stakeholder, investigating ways to prevent and/or reduce contamination across their different supply chains.

PFP supports science-based risk assessment and has committed to assist the process via different actions including submission of occurrence data and contribution to the public consultation.

We remain committed to continuing acting on the MOH contamination issue and to engaging constructively in the next steps.

- End -

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.