



Mr. László ANDOR
Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and
Inclusion
DG Employment and Social Affairs and Equal
Opportunities
Rue de la Loi, 200
BE-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 7 September 2011

Ref : Joint Application for the Setup of a Social Dialogue Committee in the EU Food and Drink Industry

Dear Commissioner Andor,

EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope are pleased to jointly apply for the establishment of a Social Dialogue Committee in the EU Food and Drink Sector under the aegis of the European Commission. This application is in conformity with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (art. 152, 154 and 155), with the European Commission Decision of 20 May 1998 – 98/500/EC on Social Dialogue and follows up on Recommendation n° 18 of the EU High Level Forum on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry. This joint initiative will launch social dialogue in the single largest industrial sector in the EU in terms of employment (4.4 million people), turnover (€965 billion) and exports (€58.2 billion).

Without prejudice to already recognised EU sectoral social dialogues¹, FoodDrinkEurope and EFFAT mutually recognise each other at all levels as sole representatives of respectively the employees and the employers of the EU Food and Drink industry. It is recognised that EFFAT and FoodDrinkEurope represent the entirety of their members, whether national federations, companies or EU sectors and as such are the only spokespersons for these entities.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and meanwhile, we remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harald Wiedenhofer".

Harald WIEDENHOFER
EFFAT Secretary General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mella Frewen".

Mella FREWEN
FoodDrinkEurope Director General

Cc Mr. Koos Richelle Director General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Mr Jean-Paul Tricart, Head of Unit, Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations

¹ Among which the European sectoral dialogue committee in the sugar sector created on 24.11.1999