

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 15 November 2012

Principles of good practices: Retailers determined to pursue work towards a voluntary solution

After intensive discussions over the past months, the core group multistakeholder dialogue concluded and announced that a compromise on an amended framework proposal could not be reached. Retail organisations regret this decision and see this as a missed opportunity to find a quick and efficient solution for disputes about B2B commercial practices.

The European stakeholder associations representing the food supply chain have worked intensively over the past year to achieve a framework to implement and enforce the principles of good practice agreed by 11 organisations in the food supply chain. In July, the group presented a framework that was eventually agreed by all but the farming and the meat processing organisations. This framework aims to bring more fairness in business-to-business relations along the entire food supply chain, notably by ensuring respect of the principles of good practice and by bringing more transparency in handling disputes, taking into account the need to reassure the complainants that they will not be subject to commercial retaliation.

Since then, stakeholder organisations have been trying hard to bridge the gap with the farmers' organisation Copa-Cogeca. At the same time, retail and manufacturing organisations worked with their members to secure support at management level, seek early implementation by a critical mass of companies and obtain an estimate of the number of early signatories at the High Level Forum meeting on 5 December.

Despite this setback, retail organisations are determined to continue to work constructively with the stakeholder organisations that supported the July proposal on a voluntary solution based on concrete and measurable commitments. Stakeholders envisage that this framework would remain open to all operators in the food supply chain, including farmers.

~ENDS~

For further information, please contact:

EuroCommerce Marjolein Raes Director Advocacy & Communications Tel: +32 2 737 05 99 raes@eurocommerce.be	UGAL Else Groen Director-General Tel: + 32 2 732 46 60 info@ugal.eu
ERRT Dennis Kredler Director-General Tel: +32 2 286 5122 dkredler@errt.org	EuroCoop Rodrigo Gouveia Secretary-General Tel: +32 2 285 00 76 rgouveia@eurocoop.coop