

07/09/2018

Press Release

Unfair is unfair declares agri-food chain

The entire agri-food chain issued a declaration today (attached here), ahead of the EU Parliament's discussion on the draft Unfair Trading Practices Directive on Monday.

The signatories of the statement explain that 'unfair is unfair' and that this is a crucial principle for developing a fair supply chain. All actors in the food supply chain should be protected from unfair trading practices.

Without this basic principle enshrined in EU law any actor could be faced, directly, or indirectly with the effects of unfair trading practices, even if in their country the legislation would be adequate.

The signatories call for a clear definition of what is an unfair trading practice, currently absent from the draft Directive. The essence of an unfair trading practice is: Shifting, unilaterally, the economic burden onto one's suppliers, by taking advantage of the buyer's position as market gatekeeper.

Without the inclusion of such a definition the Directive risks leaving significant gaps to be exploited by those who intend to obtain unfair advantages at the cost of others in the supply chain.

The agri-food chain signatories point out that the Directive will need to be revised in no more than three years. The market evolves quickly and as this proposal is very limited in scope, policy makers should remain open to at least assess the effects and apply corrections to the framework in a timely manner.

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