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FEDIOL food and feed safety vision

FEDIOL member companies are committed to delivering safe vegetable oils, fats and protein meals. The level of food and feed safety in Europe is already among the highest in the world. Nevertheless, FEDIOL member companies strive for a constant improvement of food and feed safety, whenever this is supported by scientific evidence and technical feasibility.

Safe food and feed are a cornerstone of FEDIOL's objectives for a sustainable development of the EU vegetable oil, fat and protein meal industry as part of global supply chains. Enhancing the way in which potential safety issues are addressed is critical for the safety of consumers, the image of the sector and the trust created across these supply chains up to the consumers. The strategy developed by FEDIOL in pursuing these objectives is outlined in this document.

Safe food and feed are essential for the internal market

A high level of consumer protection is a key element of the European Union. FEDIOL fully adheres to the principles and goals set by the General Food Law, Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, according to which:

- The free movement of safe food and feed is an essential aspect of the EU internal market and contributes significantly to the health and well-being of citizens and to their social and economic interests.
- A high level of protection of human life and health as well as animal health and welfare is to be assured by EU policies.
- The free movement of food and feed within the EU can be achieved only if food and feed safety requirements do not differ significantly from EU Member State to EU Member State.

Responsibilities are clearly defined and acknowledged

FEDIOL member companies fully acknowledge their responsibility for delivering safe food and feed. As required by the EU food and feed hygiene regulations, this entails the implementation of safety management systems based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). It also entails compliance with prerequisites regarding facilities and equipment, personnel, production, quality control, storage and transport, record keeping and complaints and product recall as outlined in EU laws.

In the EU regulatory framework, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is responsible for evaluating food and feed safety risks and the EU legislator decides how to manage these risks and how to communicate on such risks. The EU legislator's risk management decisions may entail requirements on safety management systems, setting limits on substances, creating positive lists, banning practices or products, requirements on traceability and on notification of activities.

FEDIOL leading in food and feed safety management policies

A number of decisive actions and initiatives are part of FEDIOL's strategy in support of enhanced food and feed safety. They call for leadership attitude throughout all steps of food and feed safety management:

- Cooperation with policy makers on assessing food and feed safety risks
FEDIOL addresses food and feed safety hazards on the basis of scientific evidence. This means that FEDIOL is gathering information on the prevalence of these hazards in vegetable oils and fats and protein meals and that it is evaluating the related food and feed safety risks for consumers. On top of this, it is sharing the results of this with policy makers and other stakeholders.

- Common assessment of risks in the supply chains of vegetable oils and fats and protein meals
FEDIOL member companies share with each other knowledge on food and feed safety risks in the production chains of oils, fats and protein meals, by laying these down as Food and Feed Chain Risk Assessments and by publishing these risk assessments for the benefit of the FEDIOL membership, but also for that of policy makers and other stakeholders.
- Codes of good practice on food and feed safety control
FEDIOL develops and updates voluntary codes of good practice on controlling critical food and feed safety hazards.
- Striking a balance between food and feed safety and economic viability
It is essential to support a constructive dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders on striking the right balance between a high level of food and feed safety in the supply chains of vegetable oils, fats and protein meals and economic viability of the activity of oilseed crushing and vegetable oil and fat refining.
- Crisis management procedure
FEDIOL develops and updates crisis management procedures, in order to be able to act on an emerging food or feed safety crisis as quickly as possible.
- EU Guide to good practice on safe feed production
FEDIOL develops, makes available and updates an EU approved guide to good practices for the manufacture of safe feed materials in all EU languages, topped up by a voluntary feed certification system.
- Coordination along the supply chain
FEDIOL engages with other stakeholders in the food and feed chain to ensure collective and coordinated response to potential common challenges on delivering safe food and feed, to increase transparency across the chain and hence build trust in our food and feed systems. A flow chart of the food and feed chains that FEDIOL members companies are part of can be found below.

Flow chart of food and feed chains that FEDIOL member companies are part of

