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Press Release

European Parliament calls upon an EU Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) maximum limit

A resolution adopted in plenary today considers that the best approach to address Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in Europe is through an EU legislation setting a maximum limit in food products. *"FEDIOL welcomes this outcome, which we have been advocating since 2014. An EU 2% Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) legal limit on fat basis in products sold to the final consumers will address the health concern and ensure a level playing field across Europe"*, said Henri Rieux, FEDIOL President.

The resolution also recognises the *consumers' confusion about the difference between partially hydrogenated oils (containing TFAs, among other fatty acids) and fully hydrogenated oils (containing only saturated fatty acids and no TFAs), as Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 requires this information to be given in the ingredients list of pre-packed foods. "This clearly sets the ground for the deletion of the existing mandatory labelling of fully and partially hydrogenation, together with an EU TFA limit"*, he stressed.

TFAs are naturally found in foods obtained from ruminants, such as dairy products and meat, and in industrially produced partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. As highlighted in the resolution, TFAs from ruminant sources have similar effects to those from industrial products.

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Background

- **FEDIOL, the EU vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry association**, represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meal producers, vegetable oils producers, refiners and bottlers. FEDIOL's members are 12 national associations and associated company members in 5 other EU countries. With about 150 facilities in Europe, the sector provides 20,000 direct employments. Its members process approximately 36 million tonnes of basic products a year, both of EU origin and imported from third country markets. The sector processes notably rapeseed, sunflower seed, soybeans and linseed into oils and meals for food, feed, technical and energy uses essentially on the European market.
- **Trans Fatty Acids (TFA)** are a category of fatty acids which can originate from animals, from the hydrogenation of vegetable oils and fats and can also arise during the refining process of vegetable oils and fats.
- **Annex VII of Regulation 1169/2011** requires that *"the expression 'fully hydrogenated' or 'partly hydrogenated', as appropriate, must accompany the indication of a hydrogenated oil or fat."*