Mr Janusz Wojciechowski  
European Commissioner for Agriculture  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels  

Brussels, 5 February 2024  

Subject: EU Strategic Dialogue on agriculture overlooks role of primary food processing

Dear Commissioner,

The EU’s primary food processing sectors welcome the initiative to launch a Strategic Dialogue on the future of agriculture on 25 January. We need a free and open discussion around the future of our food system and how it can meet the objectives of economic viability, food security and environmental sustainability.

But we are disappointed that primary food processing has been overlooked by the European Commission as a partner organisation for the Strategic Dialogue. We fear that our voice will not be heard in this important debate.

Primary food processing is a vital link in the food chain, delivering efficiently produced, high-quality, safe primary food for our customers and the consumer. We are the link between farmers on the one side, and secondary processors and retailers on the other.

Our industry processes over 220 million tonnes of agricultural raw commodities (cereals, sugar beet, rapeseeds, soybeans, sunflower seeds, crude vegetable oil, starch potatoes, cocoa beans...) annually, employing over 120,000 people in Europe. We make essential products such as sugar, starch, flour, vegetable oils and fats, vegetable protein, animal feed, and cocoa, as well as a range of non-food bio-based products. All of which are hugely important outlets for farmers both in the EU and overseas.

The Primary Food Processors of the EU (PFP) is the association for the European primary food processing industry to the European institutions and international organisations. Our association must be brought into the fold of the Strategic Dialogue on agriculture.

Yours Sincerely,

[E-SIGNED]

Primary Food Processors
PFP is composed of:

- European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS)
- European Cocoa Association (ECA)
- European Flour Milling Association (European Flour Millers)
- European Vegetable Protein Association (EUVEPRO)
- EU Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry (FEDIOL)
- European Starch Industry Association (Starch Europe)