

Fedima hosts Panel Discussion on Resilience in the Supply Chain as part of Annual General Assembly

Panellists include representatives from AIBI, CELCAA, and EuroCommerce

Brussels, 26 September 2022 – [Fedima](#), the Federation of European Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients to the Bakery, Confectionery and Patisseries Industries, welcomed guest panellists from across the bakery ingredients sector to discuss resilience in the bakery supply chain. The panel discussion, moderated by EurActiv agri-food and health policy journalist Gerardo Fortuna, took place in the context of Fedima's Annual General Assembly (GA) in Antwerp, Belgium on 22 and 23 September 2022. The discussion focused on several topics, including the crises facing the supply chain, sustainability, digitalisation, and data usage.

Opening the session, Pieter Devuyst, News Analyst for European Food and Agriculture Policies at [S&P Global](#), gave an overview of the main challenges for the industry, focusing on the impact of the war in Ukraine, the EU's policy responses, and the EU's continued push for more sustainability in food supply chains. He noted that "the challenges for the European bakery industry are unprecedented and are seriously testing the resilience of food supply chains".

Nelli Hajdu, Secretary General of [CELCAA](#), emphasised the "need to invest in making food systems more sustainable at a broader, global level." She continued, noting that "in order for supply chains to be resilient, accessibility of data is key. It is what will enable businesses to surmount many of the challenges facing them today, such as transport of goods across border controls. We need to be included in policy decisions, whilst becoming more digital and creative in order to adapt effectively to the crises ahead in a sustainable manner".

Leena Whittaker, Director of Competitiveness at [EuroCommerce](#), noted that "policy makers' actions sometimes do not take into account the complexity of supply chains. This is why associations and businesses should be part of the conversation from the start, to share the reality and explain the potential effects of policy decisions. When considering improving sustainability in supply chains, what we need is a collaborative approach, that offers legal certainty to try new methods and does not deter the first movers".

Improving sustainability in the sector is at the core of Fedima's work, with the aim of helping drive the sector towards more sustainable practices across the value chain. With this in mind, Fedima has published a [Position Paper for a Sustainable European Bakery Industry and a Vision Paper on Sustainable Packaging](#). The association will continue its work to share best practices among members and collectively address this crucial issue. Fedima gathered its members in Antwerp for the first in-person GA since 2019 to discuss the association's future ambitions, relevant EU policy developments, and the challenges and opportunities for the sector. Members attending had the chance to participate in committee meetings, the panel discussion, networking moments, and a celebratory dinner and drinks.

Secretary General of [AIBI](#), Didier Jans stated: "We are facing times of new and developing crises, shifting the sector's focus to energy. The industry has demonstrated a lot of agility in the past few years, but it would be great to see that same agility and adaptability from the authorities and policy makers. In this way, and with strong collaboration across the value chain, the food sector can grow in resilience and more proactively face the challenges ahead."

"We are delighted to have welcomed speakers from across the value chain to discuss such pertinent issues for our industry. With the combination of the energy crisis, food security issues, and ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is increasingly important for our supply chains to be as crisis-proof and resilient as possible. This can only be achieved when all actors of the value chain come together to find innovative and creative solutions. At Fedima we are exploring the many ways in which collaboration with other industry players can help us achieve our goals and the common goals of the sector," said Johan Sanders, President of Fedima.



*Federation of European Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients
to the Bakery, Confectionery and Patisseries Industries*

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About Fedima

Fedima is the Federation of European Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients to the Bakery, Confectionery and Patisserie Industries, and is composed of national associations across 13 countries. Fedima represents an estimated of 24,850 direct employees across Europe, and represents approximately 6 billion EUR in annual turnover. For more information, please visit Fedima's website: www.fedima.org.

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