

## **Voluntary Code of Practice Openness/Transparency/Inclusiveness procedures**

*The issue of openness, transparency and inclusiveness has been identified as of crucial importance for the successful development of technology platforms. At a seminar held on 15, December 2004 in Brussels, the industrial leaders of the existing and emerging platforms committed themselves to respect a voluntary code of conduct on openness and transparency.*

*The following is a draft code of practice for the Technology Platform “Food For Life”*

Members of the ETP “Food for Life” are committed to respect the following code of openness and transparency:

### ***Mission***

*The ETP Food for Life” is focusing on an effective integration of strategically-focussed, trans-national, concerted research in the nutritional-, food- and consumer sciences and food chain management to deliver innovative, novel and improved food products for, and to, national, regional and global markets in line with consumer needs and expectations.*

*With the broad consultation of interested parties and stakeholders the food industry having global business leadership securely based on economic growth, technology transfer, sustainable food production and consumer confidence will be enabled to make its contribution the European Strategic Research Agenda.*

### ***Membership***

The ETP is open to membership, from:

Industry, Academia, all relevant stakeholders, including industry, public authorities, research community, regulators, civil society, operators, users and consumers as direct members, observers or guests.

All interested parties expressing an interest of participation should be committed to support the aim of strengthening research, development and innovation efforts in Europe in the food and drink industry sector in a non-dogmatic manner & on the basis of broadest consensus.

### ***Transparency and communication***

Via the ETP website <http://etp.ciaa.be/asp/home.asp>

- Summary meeting reports,
- Register to comment of drafts,
- Register to get involved in the activities

will be published.

### ***Openness and transparency within the ETP***

The ETP board, comprising of representatives of:

- Primary production,
- Secondary processing,
- Sectors,
- SMEs ,
- National representation with a particular focus on new Members States

- Southern European countries
- European academia having a particular interest in the field
- Relevant stakeholders as either direct members or observers

will :

- *Develop and oversee a long-term Vision – decide over the overall strategy*
- *Ratify the outline and final SRA documents,*
- *Interact with the Mirror Group,*
- *Seek financial support from the private and public sector,*
- *Optimise interactions between Working Groups and Horizontal Activities, so as to maximise overall impact and value addition,*
- *Provide a policy interface on issues common to Working Groups,*
- *Be responsible for financial and accounting issues, based on a transparent system*
- *Decide changes in the structure and goals of the ETP as required,*
- *Decide plans for using and disseminating information for public realtions, press releases,*
- *Nominate/replace Board Members as required, and chairs for the working groups*
- Control, audit and evaluate procedures

### ***Synergy between different activities***

The ETP is seeking synergy between different activities.

The goals of ERA-Net and the ETP are considered complementary;

- while the ERA-Net focus is the coordination of publicly funded programs;
- the ETP focus is to structure public and private research funds; the aim is the mobilisation of a range of public and private funding sources (National, regional and private research funding, Community Framework Programmes, Structural Funds)

### ***International dimension***

The ETP considers the international dimension and considers that the European strategy must be aligned with the global strategy – US, developing countries and others

### How can I contribute to the ETP?

It will be obvious that the impact of this ETP will depend upon the integrated activities of a large number of organisations and individuals throughout Europe. There are a number of ways in which interest parties can assist this process:

- **Publicising the ETP** –dissemination of information on ETP Food for Life to colleagues and other parties who may be interested,
- **Promoting the ETP** – contact us if you would be interested in hosting a national stakeholder consultation,
- **Engaging in ETP research and training activities** – details of all activities promoted within the SRA to be posted on this website,
- **Providing information** – on national activities and projects, national and/or regional networks with whom we should engage. Effective and targeted [two-way] communication is important for optimising the impact of this ETP and we would seek to use all available means and channels,
- **Providing feedback** – we would very much welcome your comments on the development of this ETP. To be successful it must reflect the interests of all stakeholder communities and address the opportunities and challenges in all regions of Europe. Your comments and opinions will help to ensure that these perspectives are maintained.