

DELIVERING A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT PERISHABLE-GOODS SUPPLY CHAIN



A plan for growth and transformation in the European cold chain

We call on all candidates seeking election to the European Parliament, the incoming EU Commission team and the national representatives convening in the European Council to recognise the importance and positive role that cold chain businesses play in the European economy and society and commit to working with us to secure positive outcomes for the future of our vital supply chains.

OUR 4-POINT PLAN FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE EUROPEAN COLD CHAIN

■ COLD CHAIN IS VITAL TO A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

We call on the EU to put food security at the heart of the Farm to Fork Strategy and to ensure that providing clear, proportionate regulations and strong incentives to businesses that offer storage and transportation capacity is recognised as a fundamental objective.

■ COLD CHAIN WILL THRIVE IN A DECARBONISED EUROPEAN ENERGY SYSTEM

Cold chains rely on secure, consistent, and affordable energy. The recent energy crisis exposed our energy system's vulnerabilities, which will persist. As Europe pursues decarbonization, it must prioritize food and pharma supply chain infrastructure in resilience planning and incentivize cold chain operators to invest in renewables and smart grid integration.

■ COLD CHAIN ENABLES EUROPEAN TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Cold chain businesses must be consulted as the EU develops future trade policies to ensure that food security and resilience are at the heart of future trade policies. It must prioritize the capacity and quality of infrastructure for transporting and storing food and pharmaceuticals.

■ COLD CHAIN PROVIDES JOBS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

As Europe debates the future of work, it must recognise the importance of logistics as a rewarding career path. There are transformational innovations emerging that will bring productivity and safety benefits for all. These should be incentivised, and we must work now to ensure people at all stages have access to the skills and training needed for the logistics jobs of tomorrow.

TO READ THE FULL CALL TO ACTION – VISIT: <https://www.gcca.org/regions/europe/>



THE COLD CHAIN MATTERS

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The cold chain matters. By safely and efficiently storing and transporting perishable goods, the cold chain feeds a fast-changing population, fuels trade and economic growth, and provides a vital frontline in adapting to the realities of climate change.

The cold chain supports a **food sector** that contributes

€800 billion
to the European Economy¹

2.9 billion tonnes

of **food stuffs** were transported by European registered HGVs²

42 million tonnes

of **meat** produced in the EU was transported and stored by cold chain businesses³

160 million tonnes

of **milk** produced, and processed in drinking milk, cheese, butter and other products⁴

Cold chain stored and transported, from the

4.6 million tonnes
of fishery products⁵

78.7%

of food goods transported within the EU travelled less than 300km⁶

Cold chain facilitated total intra and extra EU food exports at

€513 billion

... and facilitated imports from outside the EU valued at

€110 billion

¹ Key Figures on the European Food Chain 2023 Edition – Eurostat Nov 2023 p6

² Key Figures on the European Food Chain 2023 Edition – Eurostat Nov 2023 p70

³ Key Figures on the European Food Chain 2023 Edition – Eurostat Nov 2023 p33

⁴ Key Figures on the European Food Chain 2023 Edition – Eurostat Nov 2023 p35

⁵ Key Figures on the European Food Chain 2023 Edition – Eurostat Nov 2023 p48

⁶ Data and Trends EU Food and Drink Industry 2023 Edition – Food and Drink Europe p15