



EFFAT

EFFAT
Avenue Louise 130a, Box 3
1050 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 218 77 30
Fax: +32 2 218 30 18
effat@effat.org
www.effat.org

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS (EFFAT)

VISION

We want to see global policies that ensure respect for human rights and labour rights in all aspects of trade. Companies importing products into the EU as well as EU companies exporting and operating abroad would be required to comply with international labour standards as set by the International Labour Organization, and would be required to allow freedom of association, collective bargaining and trade union rights.



PROBLEMS

- Some of the products found on European supermarket shelves have been sourced from companies that use slave labour or other exploitative labour practices;
- Some food industries, such as the sea food industry, refuse to recognise workers' rights, denying workers the right to form or join a trade union or association;
- Sustainability chapters in existing trade agreements are not binding, meaning workers and other citizens do not have the right to take legal action within the framework of trade agreements when abuses occur.

DEMANDS

- EU producers must compete under fair and social conditions. This can only be achieved by recognising that trade is not only distorted by tariff barriers but also by exploitative and unsustainable practices that damage the environment and workers' rights. These practices are most often pursued through lower production costs.
- As the world's biggest market, the EU must use its leverage in free trade agreement negotiations to ensure that social and environmental rights are respected. Where this is not the case, the EU must not open its markets to products which result from a breach of these rights.
- We call for strong, enforceable, sustainability chapters in European Union negotiations on free trade agreements. We need strong clauses on labour rights, human rights, including civil and political rights, and equally strong clauses, which respect multilateral environmental agreements (including the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement).

