

**ROADMAP FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF AN EU FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD  
SECURITY CONTINGENCY PLAN  
- COMMENTS OF INDEPENDENT RETAIL EUROPE -**

**13 JANUARY 2021**



When the first complications in the functioning of the food supply chain appeared at the onset of the corona crisis, we raised the need for an EU contingency plan for the food sector for crisis periods; we therefore very much welcome this initiative.

Such a contingency plan should focus on maintaining/restoring food supply chain efficiency, building on good practices and lessons learned from the corona crisis and other crises. It should seek to eliminate obstacles and allow for swift and flexible solutions between supply chain operators. It should not create additional obligations for operators in the food chain or duplications of already existing risk management obligations with regard to personnel and processes. On the contrary, it should help mitigate these risks, for instance by ensuring that food operators get priority access to the necessary protective equipment for their staff and vaccinations.

Since such a plan concerns different types of crises, all economic actors in the supply chain and all relevant DGs, for instance DG GROW, responsible for all the economic actors in the middle of the food supply chain, as well as national experts with expertise on the whole or different aspects of the food supply chain and crisis management, and all interested EU trade associations of food supply chain operators should be actively involved in its design and in the permanent forum.

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*Established in 1963, **Independent Retail Europe** (formerly UGAL – the Union of groups of independent retailers of Europe) is the European association that acts as an umbrella organisation for the main groups of independent retailers in the food and non-food sectors.*

*Independent Retail Europe represents retail groups characterised by the provision of a support network to independent SME retail entrepreneurs; joint purchasing of goods and services to attain efficiencies and economies of scale, as well as respect for the independent character of the individual retailer.*

*Our members are groups of independent retailers, associations representing them as well as wider service organizations built to support independent retailers.*

*Independent Retail Europe represents 24 groups and their 380.980,00 independent retailers, who manage more than 757.000 sales outlets, with a combined retail turnover of more than 971 billion euros and generating a combined wholesale turnover of 291 billion euros. This represents a total employment of more than 6.486.000 persons.*

*More information about Independent Retail Europe under [www.independentretaileurope.eu](http://www.independentretaileurope.eu)*