PRESS RELEASE

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Associations of producers and distributors together in defence of the sustainability of the food chain

SONAE RECOMMENDS THE EUROPEAN UNION MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE FOOD CHAIN

Sonae integrates the group of signatories of the joint declaration on behalf of the sustainability of the food chain, which has as its main goal to assure the European citizens the supply of food products in a sustainable way, keeping in mind economical, social and environmental concerns.

The initiative entitled "Actions towards a more sustainable European food chain" was developed as part of the “Stakeholder Dialogue Group on Food Sustainability” and is meant for the European Union to promote a more cohesive approach to safeguard the sustainability of the food systems for future generations. This Group emanated from the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain – an advisory body of the European Commission, whose objective is to ensure the coherence of the initiatives of the latter and to collaborate in the definition of the European industrial policies in the agri-food sector.

The Declaration includes 32 concrete policy recommendations which may help achieve a more sustainable food chain by 2020, including a greater coherence between the different food-related policy objectives and between EU stakeholder platforms. The initiative emphasizes the importance of taking into account all of the aspects of sustainability, ranging from agriculture and fisheries, environmental policies, health and consumers, to waste management and energy policies.

The signatories of the Declaration defined the sustainability of the food systems as "the continuous engagement of the food chain stakeholders to achieve low environmental impacts, while contributing to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for the present and future generations". These systems should be "protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human

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By the end of 2013, Sonae achieved a turnover of over 4,8 thousand million Euros. The company defined as its strategic objectives: the internationalisation and diversification of investment style and the leveraging and strengthening of core assets and competencies. Find out more at www.sonae.pt.

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resources ". Finally, "sustainability means ensuring human rights and well-being, without depleting or diminishing the capacity of the earth's ecosystems to support life or at the expense of others well-being".

The definition embraces three pillars of sustainability – social, economic and environmental – which need to be simultaneously addressed if the sustainability of the food systems is to be ensured.

The “Stakeholder Dialogue Group on Food Sustainability” is a voluntary group established on September 2013 and it integrates the main sectorial associations of the food chain, from their production until their distribution, as well as non-governmental associations, as Sonae is the only retail company represented directly.

These organizations will work in 2014 and in the future together, so that the European Union will adopt the constant recommendations of the document, promoting the sustainability of the European food chain.

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