

Joint declaration

Turning sustainable business into a standard

Declaration by AöL and OPTA at the UN Climate Conference 2021

Fulda, 10.11.2021

There is time, up until 12 November – time for the negotiators at the UN Climate Conference in the Scottish city of Glasgow to take meaningful action to address the challenges of the climate catastrophe. The companies in the Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller e.V. (AöL) and in the Organic Processing and Trade Association e.V. (OPTA) are calling on participants at the conference to face up to these tasks for the future and to take action to make our planet a place fit for our grandchildren.

Business models and economic strategies from the last century are not suitable for a future worth living in. The negotiators need to recognise this, they must turn sustainable business into a standard and must throw old business concepts overboard. A world economy that consumes resources and is geared to achieving unlimited growth needs to be replaced with something entirely different. The time is ripe for a new economy, one based upon sufficiency and recycling.

As business players, we are already travelling down that road. Nonetheless, we need to have a clear framework for transforming ourselves into a society fit for the future, imbued with entrepreneurial spirit and courage. As entrepreneurs who shoulder responsibility and who internalise the environmental costs that we have incurred, we must be able to offer the best of prices. The negotiators at the COP 26 climate conference must ensure that environmental services such as honouring climate-neutral production and services, protecting bio-diversity and genuine concepts that favour recycling are promoted consistently by legal and economic guiding principles. The market economy needs to sign up to the sustainable transformation of our economic system.

Dr. Alexander Beck



Managing Director AöL

Bavo van den Idsert



Managing Director OPTA

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AöL:

The Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller e.V. (AöL) represents the interests of the food processing industry in the German-speaking part of Europe. The task profile of the AöL includes representation of interests at a political level as well as the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among its members. There are more than 120 companies in the AöL, ranging from SMEs to companies with international operations, with combined annual sales of more than €4 billion in organic foods. The AöL is a point of contact for politics, business, science and the media in relation to all topics relating to the processing of organic food.

OPTA:

OPTA was founded in 2017 by a group of industry leaders in the organic processing and trade sector. OPTA works together with its members to share expertise, to encourage uniform interpretation of the organic legislation and to support EU policy making, with the aim of strengthening the organic sector.

Press contacts

AöL:

Lisa Mann
Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller e.V.
Untere Badersgasse 8 | 97769 Bad Brückenau | Tel: +40 (0) 9741 938 733 4
lisa.mann@aoel.org | www.aoel.org

OPTA:

Bavo van den Idsert
OPTA e.V.
Untere Badersgasse 8 | 97769 Bad Brückenau | Tel: +31 626 16 00 49
bavo@opta-eu.org | www.opta.bio