

September 2010

TheVoice

FDF: Speaking for the food and drink manufacturing industry

FDF to promote the importance of food and drink at conferences

The Food and Drink Federation is involved in a number of fringe events at the three main political party conferences this autumn focusing on the importance of food and drink manufacturing to the UK economy.

At all the conferences FDF will speak at Dods' events focusing on the Government's role in a manufacturing-led economic recovery. Keeping with the competitiveness theme, FDF will host events at the Labour conference – teaming up with GMB union – and the Conservative conference, focusing on the importance of the food and drink sector and the role it can play in rebalancing the economy.

At the Liberal Democrats conference FDF has teamed up with the National Farmers' Union to run an event titled 'Agriculture, Food and the Coalition'. FDF's Director General Melanie Leech will join the panel to discuss policy in this area under the new government.

At the Labour and Conservative conferences FDF will join the British Retail Consortium to discuss 'Healthy and Sustainable Food' and the future of policy in this area.

If you would like a full list of events or to meet with us at conference please contact Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7127 or visit www.fdf.org.uk/partyconferences

Food companies to celebrate their community spirit

Companies from across the food and drink industry will celebrate their success on Tuesday 19 October when the winners of the 2010 FDF Community Partnership Awards are announced.

The Awards recognise the food and drink chain's longstanding commitment to many different communities and provide a showcase for the sector's widespread activities in corporate social responsibility.

For more information about the Awards or to attend the ceremony please contact Abigail Cross on either abigail.cross@fdf.org.uk or 020 7420 7127.

Food and Drink All-Party Group elects new chair

John Stevenson MP, Conservative member for Carlisle has been appointed Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Food and Drink Manufacturing Group.

The group's broad remit is to consider issues of concern to the food and drink sector and to raise awareness of these matters in Parliament. The meetings provide a useful forum for dialogue between parliamentarians and food and drink companies from constituencies across the UK on local and regional to national and global topics.

The group will meet three to four times over the coming year and the next session will take place on Thursday 04 November from 1400-1530, in Room O of Portcullis House. Previous meetings have included a tasting session on changing product recipes and a roundtable discussion on skills for the sector.

If you are interested in joining the APPG and would like further information on the meeting please get in touch or visit www.appgfooddrink.org.uk

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Food and Drink
Federation



Making a real difference

Industry welcomes Government decision on safety regulator

The Government's decision to retain the Food Standards Agency as an independent food safety regulator has been welcomed by FDF.

Barbara Gallani, Food Safety and Science Director at the FDF said: "The FSA has helped to create an environment in which public confidence in the food they eat has grown significantly in recent years and it makes sense to build on that by focusing the Agency's future activities on safety and hygiene issues. We look forward to working with them to ensure high levels of consumer trust continue."

She added: "We also support the decision to move responsibility for nutrition, and other food policy issues, back into Government departments. This should lead to clearer and more consistent policy making, while avoiding duplication of effort across Whitehall."

How FDF works for its members

The Food and Drink Federation speaks on behalf of the biggest manufacturing sector in the country, which directly employs almost 440,000 people.

In promoting and protecting the interests of our members, FDF is focusing on the issues that matter most to members and to the consumers the industry serves:

- Food Safety and Science
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Competitiveness

Our front cover picture was taken at the Enfield factory of Warburtons, an FDF member since 2002.

Food and drink firms emerge from recession in good shape

James Paice MP, Minister for Agriculture and Food, helped UK food and drink manufacturers celebrate the publication of a new report showing that the industry has emerged from recession in better shape than many other manufacturing sectors.

The Minister highlighted the key findings from a report titled Value of Food and Drink Manufacturing to the UK at a Parliamentary Reception attended by over 200 stakeholders including parliamentarians, policy makers, industry leaders, NGOs and media.



James Paice MP with FDF Director General Melanie Leech and FDF President Ross Warburton

The report commissioned by FDF from the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge showed that an ongoing demonstrable commitment to innovation and high-value production are factors that helped the UK's food and drink industry emerge from recession in better shape than many other manufacturing sectors.

From May 2008 to May 2009, the production index for food and drink fell by only 1.9 compared to 13.1 for manufacturing overall – a clear indication of the industry's resilience.

Responding, Melanie Leech, FDF Director General, said: "As Government builds the strategy for economic recovery, this report provides a timely reminder of the important financial, strategic and social contribution of the UK's biggest manufacturing sector. We have placed innovative research and development at the heart of our industry and continued to invest in our products, our factories and our people in a hugely challenging economic climate – and are now well-placed to capitalise on these strong foundations as the country emerges from recession".

The next phase of the research will examine the future scenarios and challenges for the food industry in the UK and will be launched at a lunchtime event in Westminster on 10 September.

For more information about the research or to attend the 10 September event please contact Abigail Cross on either abigail.cross@fdf.org.uk or 020 7420 7127.

FDF support the Groceries Code adjudicator

FDF has welcomed the commitment from the Government to set up a Groceries Code Adjudicator to oversee the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP).

The pragmatic proposals outlined in the response to the consultation to take forward the establishment of the GSCOP will ensure there is an effective, low-cost monitoring and enforcement body in place.

Melanie Leech, FDF's Director General said: "We believe the Adjudicator will be of particular help for smaller businesses, ensuring that the food chain operates fairly and in the best interests of consumers and would urge the Government to make it a reality as quickly as possible."

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