



Fédération du Commerce
et de la Distribution



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Shared platform for the gathering of carbon emissions data

The decarbonization of supply chains and the requisite involvement of those who act as suppliers to retailer brands is a priority for reaching carbon-emission reduction targets in the retailer sector as set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement and the obligations imposed by European legislation (as transposed into national laws), as well as French law¹.

According to a study conducted by McKinsey for Eurocommerce in 2022, 96% of greenhouse gas emissions from retailers are indirect emissions, with the products that they sell accounting for 77% of those emissions.

Amid this context, retailer brands, both in the food and non-food sectors, members of the FCD and Perifem trade federations wish to set up a platform with the **objective of making it easier to publish and gather reliable data that will enable them to quantify their scope 3 carbon emissions.**

As part of the "LESS" (Retail for *Low-Emission Sustainable Sourcing*) program, they have mandated FCD and Perifem to enact the plan to create such a platform, so that it could be used—on a voluntary basis—by as wide an audience as possible among supplier and retailer brands that are not members of the FCD or Perifem trade federations.

Benefits for the stakeholders:

- ✓ **Unique data** to be provided by suppliers for all their retailer clients;
- ✓ A **data-collection tool shared by retailer brands committed to the LESS program** enabling the consolidation and tracking of data from suppliers.

This call for expressions of interest is intended for any party (in particular: the sharing of existing data on decarbonization, research institutions and consultants specialized in decarbonization or performance evaluation, certifying bodies, other ongoing initiatives in the sector, initiators of platform projects, etc.) that may meet the needs of the retailer brands listed hereafter.

¹ For EU legislation, refer in particular to the "Fit for 55" European legislative package, as well as EU directive 2022/2464 of December 14, 2022, relating to the publication, by companies, of information on sustainability (known as the CSRD) and EU directive 2024/1760 of June 13, 2024, on companies' duty of diligence in relation to sustainability (known as the "CS3D"). It may be pointed out that France has already transposed the CSRD in an edict of December 6, 2023, and various other regulatory texts (decree no. 2023-1394 of December 30, 2023, and two orders dated December 28, 2023). The CS3D remains to be transposed into French law.

Objective

- ✓ **Reduce the scope 3 carbon emissions of the brands and obtain statistical data to be integrated into their carbon-footprint assessments.**
- ✓ **Commit suppliers to reducing the carbon emissions linked to their activities, products, and selected stock. To that end, the retailer brands wish to gather the actual carbon-emissions data for each product.**

Since those data are very rarely available at this time, the platform should enable the following:

- ✓ **First, to know the supplier's carbon emissions in relation to the quantity of products delivered to each retailer brand broken, with the possibility, preferably, of providing an answer for each product category (categories to be defined) for suppliers who are able to do so.**

With regard of this first stage, the respondent is asked to propose any alternative approach that would reconcile the data available from suppliers with the precision requirement targeted in the second stage

Preferably, the supplier's carbon emissions will be calculated on the basis of actual data, or—failing that—data of a generic nature.

The retailer brands will also be able to acquire from such a platform commitments from the respondent suppliers concerning the trajectory of their carbon emissions.

Criteria for evaluating candidates

The evaluation of candidates will be based on the criteria listed below, in line with the short-term need of the retailer brands. Respondents are requested to provide an explanation of their responses.

The platform should be upgradeable so that, ultimately, it will enable the gathering of carbon emissions data for each product. It is also recommended to explain how this upgradeable aspect of the platform is ensured and will be implemented.

• General criteria:

- ✓ **The platform should be user-friendly and available in French and English.**
- ✓ **The term "Users" includes:**
 - **the retailer brands that will gather data from this platform;**
 - **the manufacturers that will publish data on the platform.**

• Features

1. **The platform should make it possible to know the methodology used to calculate the carbon-emission figures and its reference framework in line with indisputable standards ((GHG (*Greenhouse Gas Protocol*) and SBTi (*Science Based Targets Initiative*)) which must be scientifically based to ensure the transparency, objectivity, and accuracy of the gathered data. The User must be in a position to explain the methodology he used to calculate his carbon emissions in order to avoid any comparison of non comparable datas.**
2. **The users should be able to delve deeper than the proposed methodology if they so wish, once compliance with the principles of transparency, objectivity, and scientific reliability is assured.**
Moreover, they must be specify whether datas entered are calculated on a group basis (multi or mono activities) or on a subsidiary level (world, France).
3. **The platform should set out the verification processes likely to be put in place to ensure the reliability of the gathered data, with full transparency for Users. At a minimum, the platform must include a system for verifying the consistency of the data, a comprehensiveness check,**

and a verification of the reliability of the methodology according to the procedures set out in the proposal.

4. The data provided by the supplier must match the retailer brand's scope of activity: the retailer brands will have access to data relating to the calculation of the declared data.
 5. A dashboard must be provided to enable monitoring of trajectories, with options available at the level of each supplier for the dashboard and proposed features.
 6. It should be possible to make the data from the platform available to the Users in a format compatible with an automated processing system (data extraction). The creation of an API is not requested at this time.
 7. A "user manual" for the platform should be created for users, whether suppliers or retailer brands.
 8. The platform must enable the management of respondent suppliers (initial invitation, reminders, alert issued to retailer brands when the questionnaire has been filled out, management of potential queries from respondents prior to, during, or following the data collection, etc.).
 9. Use of the platform is on a voluntary basis—both for the suppliers and the retailer brands—and access to the platform must be fairly ensured for all potential Users, regardless of their respective turnover or size.
- Governance
 10. The Users will remain the owners of their own data that they have published on the platform, and they will retain the option of disposing of those data in accordance with the conditions set out in the terms of the contract between each User and the platform.
 11. The contract with and membership of the platform will be conducted individually for each company.
 12. The business model must take into account the value of the service delivered to the various parties involved (retailer brands and suppliers), as well as market values. The respondent may propose a business model that may evolve according to the expected number of Users (retailer brands and manufacturers)².
 13. The proposed service level agreement must allow for consultation and collective agreements, by User college if necessary, on the maintenance and upgradeability of the platform, without hindering potential individual agreements with contractors.

² For information: between 10 and 20 user brands are expected at the start-up of the platform. Regarding the users on the supplier side, the retailer brands will of course be free to prioritize the suppliers they consider most suitable, and suppliers will have the option of signing up voluntarily. For information, we estimate a total of between 1,000 and 2,000 suppliers in the medium term.

- Cybersecurity and compliance

14. The confidentiality of the data published on the platform, in particular commercially sensitive information between competitors must be assured for Users of the platform.
15. The proposal must take into account and set out the access rights of the various Users (i.e. the information available to each User) or third parties.
16. The governance, functioning, and uses of the platform must be compliant with the applicable legal regulations, in particular French and European competition law.
17. The platform must not be hosted outside the European Union.

Sequence of events in the call for expressions of interest

This call for expressions of interest (CEI) has been jointly issued by FCD and Perifem, as mandated by member brands of those two trade federations.

The objective of this CEI is to jointly identify the platform, or platforms, with the potential to meet the needs of the retailer brands based on the evaluation criteria set out above.

Provisional time frame (subject to the analysis of legal risks):

- ✓ Opening of the CEI: December 13, 2024
- ✓ Closure of the CEI: January 17, 2025
- ✓ Announcement of preselected candidates: January 31, 2025
- ✓ Interview of preselected candidates: between February 10 and 14, 2025, with additional interviews if necessary
- ✓ Announcement of the final decision: March 17, 2025

The FCD and Perifem trade federations reserve the right to amend that time frame or terminate this CEI, in particular on the basis of the results of the risk analysis, without having to explain the reasons for any such decision.

Candidacies must include the following components:

- ✓ A presentation of the company submitting the proposal;
- ✓ Details of the proposed tool and responses to the aforementioned criteria, including the envisaged methodology, the process for verifying the reliability of the data, and the upgradeability of the platform;
- ✓ Service level agreements;
- ✓ Proposal of a time frame for entry into service;
- ✓ A financial proposal setting out the business model.

Any additional component that the candidate may wish to submit will also be studied.

The candidate's proposal must be submitted before midnight on January 17, 2025 via the website www.less-impact.org

If you have any questions, please use the contact form available on that same website.