



Version 07

Declaration of Self-Commitment – Farmers for the Cultivation of Donau Soja soya

Purpose	Declaration of self-commitment for all Donau Soja soya bean farmers (producers).
Definition	Requirement for declarations of self-commitment to be signed by all farmers, deposited/handed over by the farmers at the agricultural collector in their original version and with a copy retained by the farmers Requirement to be translated into the languages of all Donau Soja countries and made available in different versions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers of risk levels 0 to 2; and • Farmers of risk level 3.
Outline	1 To comply with the Donau Soja Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation..... 1 2 Acceptance of supervisory inspections 3 3 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 0-2 3 4 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 3 3
Status	Version 07: released by the Board on 20.02.2025

The farmer undertakes, on behalf of their holding:

1 To comply with the Donau Soja Principles of Soya Bean Cultivation

For the farmer, this means, above all, that they ...:

- ... shall conduct business with integrity, respecting applicable laws and avoiding all forms of bribery, conflicts of business interest and fraudulent practices;
- ... shall grow soya beans within the Danube Region as defined by Donau Soja Organisation;
- use of soya bean varieties¹:
in EU countries: ... shall only grow GM-free soya bean varieties listed in the national or EU common catalogue of plant varieties,
in non-EU countries: ... shall only grow GM-free soya bean varieties listed in the respective national catalogue of plant varieties;
- ... shall not grow any other GM crop (e.g. GM maize);
- ... shall not have grown any other GM crop in the previous year;
- ... shall not have grown GM soya beans within the last three years;

¹Note: The applicable legal requirements concerning the multiplication of seeds (plant variety protection laws) must be observed and complied with;

- ... shall document all quantities of soya beans, both grown and harvested, by keeping their own records;
- plant protection products:
 - in EU countries: ... shall only use plant protection products that have been approved for soya bean cultivation in the respective country,
 - in non-EU countries: ... shall only use plant protection products that have been approved for soya bean cultivation in the respective country and contain only active substances that have been approved in the EU, [providing a reference to the source of information in the respective national language indicating clearly which plant protection products are approved and contain only active substances that are approved in the EU];
 - in all countries:
 - ✓ plant protection products shall be applied using methods that minimise harm to humans and the environment;
 - ✓ Integrated Crop Management techniques shall be applied to minimise negative impacts of phytosanitary products;
 - ✓ a plan for Integrated Crop Management shall be made and implemented;
 - ✓ ...shall document the application of plant protection products, fertilizers and fuel use;
 - ✓ ... shall not use any desiccants prior to harvest (e.g. glyphosate or diquat);
 - ✓ ... shall not use plant protection products listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions;
 - ✓ ... shall not use plant protection products whose active substances have been assessed as Class 1a or 1b in the WHO (World Health Organization) Classification of Pesticides by Hazard² (e.g. tefluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin or zinc phosphide);
 - ✓ there is no application of pesticides within 30 meters (or more if stated in national laws³) of any populated area or water body and all necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas;
 - ✓ aerial application of pesticides is not allowed;
 - ✓ good agricultural practices shall be implemented;
 - ✓ ... shall have knowledge of techniques to maintain and control soil quality as well as to prevent soil erosion and the relevant techniques are implemented;
- ... shall follow the recommendations contained in the Donau Soja Best Practice Manual, including the recommendations for the use of plant protection products⁴;
- in EU countries: ... shall participate in the implementation of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) with mandatory conditionality inspections⁵;

² The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard, World Health Organization (2004): Available at https://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pesticides_hazard/en/

³ In case the minimum distance cannot be kept, a justification shall be provided per e-Mail and approved by Donau Soja Organisation (quality@donausoja.org).

⁴ An updated version of the Best Practice Manual is available at the Donau Soja website: www.donausoja.org/en/downloads

⁵ Does not apply to farmers growing soya beans on less than 1 hectare of land

- ... shall submit as an annex to this Declaration a complete list of all plots of land on which the soya beans were produced (including their geolocation);⁶
- ... shall respect nature reserves;
- ... shall only use land dedicated to agricultural use no later than 2008;
- ... shall comply with both national and international labour and social standards (ILO conventions⁷);
- in case of permanent or temporary workers:
overtime is always voluntary and should be paid in accordance to local and national laws or sector agreements;
deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. Wages paid are recorded by the employer;
- in areas with traditional land users: where rights have been relinquished by traditional land users there is documented evidence that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and documented consent;
- communication with local communities: there are communication channels (written sign or website with the following information: email, cell-phone, mailbox) that adequately enable communication between the farmer and the community. The communication channels have been made known to the local communities.

2 Acceptance of supervisory inspections

The farmer accepts risk-based sampling within the scope of Donau Soja Organisation's supervisory inspections.

3 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 0-2

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply to all Donau Soja farmers.

Farmers categorised in a production area of **risk level 0-2** (F-RL 0, F-RL 1 or F-RL 2) agree to be subject to risk-based inspections by the certification body of the primary collector within the framework of the Donau Soja farmer group certification.

4 Provisions concerning farmers categorised at risk level 3

Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply to all Donau Soja farmers.

Farmers categorised in a production area of risk level 3 (F-RL 3) shall notify Donau Soja Organisation that they cultivate Donau Soja soya:

Farmers located in a production area of **risk level 3** (F-RL 3) (where the cultivation of GM soya beans is allowed) shall notify Donau Soja Organisation by e-mail that they cultivate Donau Soja soya by 30 July of the current harvest year

⁶ For quantities from the 2025 harvest that originate from micro and small farms within the EU, the availability of field data on site will be accepted until 29.06.2026. As an alternative to field data, the reference number of the product's due diligence statement in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 shall also be accepted as evidence.

⁷ **Annex** with ILO conventions



(quality@donausoja.org) and document the use of original seeds (invoices).

Alternatively, the farmer can be registered by their primary collector (also by 30 July of the current harvest year). In addition to the supervisory inspections of the farmer by or on behalf of Donau Soja Organisation, the farmer shall be obliged to have their holding inspected externally before the first Donau Soja harvest, so that they are able to present a valid certificate to the agricultural collector when delivering the harvest. This external inspection shall be repeated annually.