

# Summary of All Member Day 6th November G's Fresh Ely

## All sessions were found useful. The most popular sessions were

- Panel on Getting to grips with understanding the changes in EU regulation and expectation on business
- Breakout on collective action
- Panel on Are worker Rights in the UK better protected today?

## What went well:

*'Fantastic day, very insightful'*

*'Thanks for persevering with technology was good to have hybrid option available'*

*'A really useful day, well run and attended with open debate and good interaction from all parties'*

## What can we do better:

*'Member case studies'*

*'Breakout sessions'*



**Attendees:** 68 members attended the FNET Member meeting in person, 24 attended online. A final list of participants can be found on the [website](#).



**Presentations and notes:** All [presentations](#) and the [agenda](#) can be found at the website. Questions asked to the board during the Quick Fire Question round included:

- Encourage more food service, wholesaler, and hospitality companies to join and engage with FNET – members are asked to share companies they would like FNET to target;
- FNET to continue to build closer relationships with other initiatives to reduce duplication and increase leverage to tackle systemic issues. Sedex/FNET monthly call and webinar with Spanish ethical trade forum seen as a positive example of how this can add value to members.
- Board to clarify FNET role in advocacy



**Panel Discussion: Are worker Rights in the UK better protected today?** Discussion focused on key elements of [Employment rights bill](#), [Fair work Agency](#), [Seasonal Workers scheme](#), [NFU budget concerns](#) and the key roles businesses could play in strengthening worker engagement (two way dialogue, empowering worker agency). From subsequent table discussion member priorities were identified as being around responsible recruitment, worker voice, EPP, SWS reform and FNET could help mainly by sharing best practice examples and producing materials to engage senior leadership teams.



**Panel Discussion: Getting to grips with understanding the changes in EU regulation and expectation on business:** Discussion on significant change for business in terms of governance, operations, scope of products & issues, resources, data and reporting. 91% members concluded they did not feel prepared for CSDDD and other mandatory HRDD legislation, with a third being completely unprepared. Some practical priorities suggested to FNET were: summaries and guidance on the legislation, and sharing member case studies.



**Collective action on managing ethical issues:** The top takeaways below have been shared with FNET retailer alignment group and retailers are keen to continue the dialogue on both documents over coming months.

- **Serious incident protocol:** Majority of FNET members welcomed the document and requested further supplier sessions to work through best practice examples. A directory for signposting international links. A few supplier comments on the length but were reassured when realised they could just use the RACI in appendix 2. FNET will plan a formal review after 6 months to invite further feedback
- **Process for managing Collaborative Action Required (CAR) finding non compliances:** Majority of FNET members welcomed the document. Suggested next steps- Webinar update from SEDEX to understand common CAR's being raised from SMETA 7 audits to date and potential areas of auditor inconsistency in how the SMETA methodology will be interpreted. Schedule 'Love CAR's workshops' for suppliers with similar CAR issues to work through with retailer customers. Develop CAR guidance document on best practice



**FNET Communications review:** Meadows Communications presented review and recommendations. Members suggested priorities should focus on website improvements, re-branding and horizon-scanning resources for action over the coming year and developing FNET advocacy position.



**Working Group Discussions:** Working group leads gave short updates on group achievements. To join a group, please contact the FNET Team. Members brainstormed ideas for 2025 workplan. These will be further developed at an FNET technical team planning day on 12th December with working group leads in Jan 2025 to agree the final strategic roadmap for 2025/26 to be shared with members on the 29th Jan Fortnightly call.