

Commitment to Transparency

The EDFA develops a documentation system on the origin of down and feathers – more than 90 manufacturers of bedfeathers and bedding articles resolve on a voluntary code of conduct.

On the occasion of this year's general meeting, the members of the association of the European bedfeather and bedding industries have unanimously pledged themselves again to animal welfare and the appropriate gathering of feathers according to valid animal welfare acts and regulations by means of a code of conduct they have established for themselves and the development of a traceability system which considerably goes beyond the animal welfare acts that are currently applied in the European Union.

The companies obligate themselves to comply in future with the following code of conduct to accompany the legislation on the gathering of feathers:

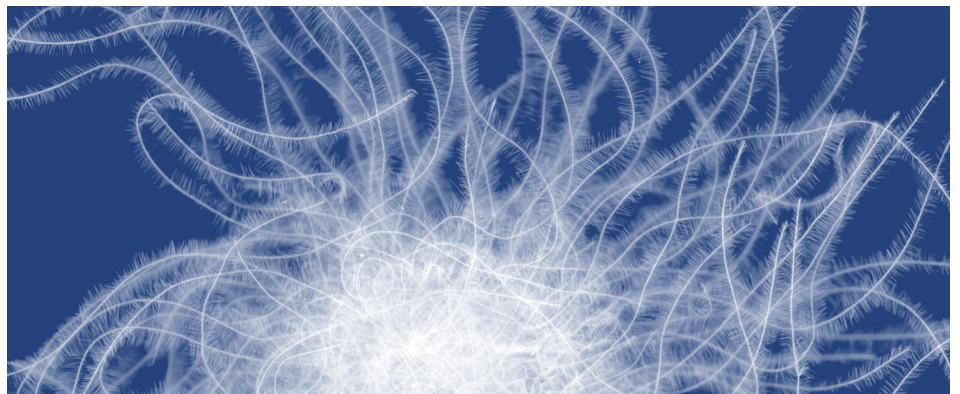
- The members must not gather and obtain any down and feathers sourcing from live plucking.
- The companies include a corresponding declaration in their sales

contracts and General Terms and Conditions, respectively.

- The origin of the down and feathers are entered in detail in a documentation system, i. e. the EDFA standard on traceability.
- Bedding articles produced and marketed in these circumstances may be labelled accordingly to the benefit of the consumer.

applies to all consignments deriving from the EU member states, the countries belonging to the Council of Europe and third countries. Hence, the EDFA standard on traceability covers the gathering of feathers all over the world.

In the future, suppliers must certify that their merchandise derives from slaughtered animals or the feathers



In cooperation with auditing experts, various task groups have developed the EDFA standard on traceability according to which it is possible to establish by means of a documentation system the determination of origin of the filling materials which consist of down and feathers sourcing from the production of poultry meat. This

and down were gathered during the moulting season in a manner permitted by law. Independent experts or organisations will henceforth carry out audits on a regular basis to control the accuracy of the information.

The association that has encouraged authorities and commissions since its establishment in 1980 to advocate for uniform European legislation for the husbandry of geese and ducks according to the rules and conservative gathering of down and feathers, wants to set standards by means of its traceability system. The aim is to convince consumers and the processing industry that the filling material used for finished articles comes from species-appropriate sources.

The EDFA standard on traceability will become effective after January 1, 2011 and will be available for use to the public and also to non-members of the EDFA as orientation aid.

