

**COSMEBIO**

French Professional Association  
for Ecological and Organic Cosmetics



# ***COSMEBIO CHARTER***

***General Assembly  
7 June 2011***



## ***COSMEBIO CHARTER***

Ecological and organic cosmetics promote an **ethical and scientific approach** of beauty based on traditional know-how and progress in the science of nature and living things.

This new and increasingly popular outlook aims to promote transparency. An approach that is shared by **all the stakeholders involved in the ecological and organic cosmetics industry** producing or extracting raw materials, ingredients, formulating, manufacturing and marketing cosmetics.

It also meets the expectations of consumers who are increasingly aware of the choices they make when they opt for ecological and organic cosmetics. Products which they feel **they can trust**.

This virtuous and dynamic cycle must be sustained through the strong commitment of all the stakeholders involved in the ecological and organic cosmetics industry.

All Cosmebio members representing the industry's major stakeholders, feel very strongly that ecological and organic cosmetics, formulated and made with natural, ecological and organic ingredients, can provide valuable **benefits** for consumers and contribute to achieving **progress** within the cosmetic industry and on a wider level, the whole of society.

Professionals believe ecological and organic cosmetics should promote the industry's ethical values, scientific research and nature, which provides the essential raw materials they are made of. These professionals are aware that if Cosmebio is to impose itself as a major player, a true and serious **commitment** is necessary.

The ecological and organic cosmetics market is in constant evolution. There is an ever-growing number of new stakeholders and new consumers, while new standards are issued and harmonized on a European and International level. Professionals need reliable standards in order to guarantee the quality of their products, and only a strong and determined approach can achieve this.

In order to fulfil this objective, professionals involved in the ecological and organic cosmetics industry comply with Cosmebio standards, certification for which is granted by Cosmebio accredited certification bodies.

Faithful to these values, the Association is based on 3 founding principles,

- **Human** and ethical **values**, corporate citizenship
- A **scientific approach** for ecological and organic cosmetics that comply with safety standards and regulations
- Preserving **nature** and promoting organic farming

Members must make 8 commitments which obey to the founding principles of the Association.

These commitments involve precise and verifiable actions. These commitments are of different nature.

Three of them are meant as **guidelines**: responsible communication, evaluating fair trade and biodiversity.

Four of them are **compulsory requirements**: training, providing clear and precise information to consumers, number of certified products and compliance with the Cosmebio graphic charter.

And finally, one involves a **collective approach**: Cosmebio's Annual Report on Sustainable Development.

## ***Human and Ethical Values, and Corporate Citizenship***

Ecological and organic cosmetics promote a fair and ethical **vision** of society, citizens and their environment.

Therefore, we are committed to promoting a work environment that reflects these values:

- company projects that include staff, **men and women**, as an added-value rather than a burden,
- providing a **standard of living and working conditions** that are compatible with human dignity and well-being
- **promoting consumer awareness**, by providing clear, truthful and transparent information in order to build a trusting relationship between the producer and the consumer,
- promoting **fair trade**,
- a **strong commitment** involving all the stakeholders at every level of the ecological and organic cosmetics industry: raw materials, ingredients, production, extraction, manufacturing process, formulation, marketing, consumers and recycling.

Among other things, Cosmebio members commit to...

### **Commitment n°1: attending the Cosmebio training days**

All companies that become members of Cosmebio commit to appoint one or several referents to attend an annual training day introducing the main policies and principles of the Cosmebio Association, Cosmebio Standards and any amendments made to these.

This training day is organized by Cosmebio.

### **Commitment n°2: evaluating fair trade policies**

All new members commit to carry out or appoint a third party to carry out an Evaluation of the Fair Trade policy implemented by its suppliers, an evaluation based on the fundamental requirements of fair trade and which must be carried out within a year from the date of membership. An evaluation grid is available from Cosmebio. This self-evaluation grid must be completed and returned to Cosmebio who will include this

information in its Annual Report on Sustainable Development. All personal data shall remain private as it is only used for statistical purposes.

## ***Ecological and organic cosmetics that comply with safety standards and regulations***

Our mission is to develop and promote genuine ecological and organic cosmetics based on five principles ranging from raw materials and manufacturing processes to finished products, and ultimately marketing.

### **Principle 1 – a guarantee of quality / certification**

All products are certified by independent *Cosmebio*-accredited certification bodies, and must comply with Cosmebio standards.

### **Principle 2 – 100% natural ingredients**

Ingredients are obtained from 100% natural non-animal and renewable sources and are preferably organically farmed.

These resources must be used in a responsible and sustainable way. They must preserve biodiversity and be truly organic.

### **Principle 3 – manufacturing processes**

The manufacturing processes used to manufacture ecological and organic cosmetics are strictly defined - they must be non-polluting and safe for human health and the environment. They may include physical and chemical processes as long as these processes comply with green chemistry standards.

### **Principle 4 – product packaging**

Packaging is conceived in a way that minimizes its life cycle and its environmental impact. All packaging must be recyclable.

### **Principle 5 – improving ecological and organic cosmetics**

Improving skills and knowledge of ingredients and manufacturing processes. Formulations must be improved in order to develop ambitious top quality products, and

professional training schemes must be available to technicians and engineers so they may go on upgrading their competences.

**Commitment n°3: certifying individual products or complete product ranges**

Any commercial brand that includes the word ORGANIC in its name and which already includes, or will include in the near future, at least one Cosmebio-certified product will be required to certify all of its products sold under the same brand name.

Any company that is a member of Cosmebio, and whose brand range includes at least one Cosmebio-certified product, will be required to certify at least 20% of its products sold under the same brand name over the next 3 years.

**Commitment n°4: providing clear information to consumers**

When a product is certified by Cosmebio, the company marketing this product is required to publish a comprehensive list of all the ingredients contained in this product on the Cosmebio website. All ingredients must be listed according to their INCI names (International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients) and the list must be published within 6 months of certification.

## ***Preserving nature and promoting organic farming***

Ecological and organic cosmetics are the product of **nature**. They are made with ecological and organic ingredients obtained through selected extraction and manufacturing processes that preserve their natural properties.

The ecological and organic cosmetics industry is committed to preserving natural habitats through the following actions:

- using **natural resources** in a sustainable way,
- **banning patents on living organisms and genetically modified organisms - GMOs**
- promoting **animal welfare**,
- complying with international initiatives aimed at **preserving biodiversity** and fighting **counterfeit organic products**,
- preventing biosphere pollution by minimizing packaging and waste, and reducing greenhouse gases,...

*Cosmebio* members also commit to...

### **Commitment n°5: contribute to preserving biodiversity**

All members commit to fill in and submit a questionnaire on biodiversity to the Association, for all *Cosmebio*-certified products, within a year of joining the Association. An evaluation grid is available from *Cosmebio*. This self-evaluation grid must be completed and returned to *Cosmebio* who will include this information in its Annual Report on Sustainable Development. All personal data shall remain private as it is only used for statistical purposes

### **Commitment n°6: a responsible communication strategy**

All members commit to complying with the recommendations of the *Cosmebio* **Communication Charter** for all communication on *Cosmebio* products. This communication charter includes a **self-assessment grid** based on recommendations from advertising regulation bodies and Best Practices (as advocated in France, Europe and Worldwide) for products and services promoting sustainable development.

**Commitment n°7: compliance with the terms and conditions of use of the Cosmebio logo**

All members commit to comply with the *Cosmebio* **graphic charter** which defines the terms and conditions of use of the Cosmebio logo on packaging, advertisements, etc. *The Cosmebio* graphic charter is sent to members when they join the Association.

The Cosmebio Charter lays down the founding principles that unite the Association and its members. The values it promotes and defends are mainly based on **human welfare, science and environmental issues**. When they opt for ecological and organic cosmetics, consumers are made to feel they have access to **transparent information** on the products they are buying and can **trust** the industry that manufactures them.

In order to prove its will to act upon the **founding principles** shared by the Association and its members, Cosmebio commits to:

**Commitment n°8: publish an Annual Report on Sustainable Development.**

In order to prove its will to act upon the founding principles shared by the Association and its members, and obey the citizen values it defends, the Cosmebio Association commits to publishing an annual Report on Sustainable Development which will assess the current situation, determine objectives and the progress achieved by members with respect to the founding principles and key indicators.

***Samuel GABORY***

**President**

*And on behalf of the Members of the Administrative Committee*

