



Update on Circular Economy Action Plan and work of EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

**EU Platform on Food Losses
and Food Waste**

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Fight Food Waste: no impact on safety of the food and feed chain



- EU Platform on food waste prevention
- Measure and monitor food waste
- Facilitate food donation
- Optimise safe use of food in feed
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking

Waste legislation – agreement reached!

Political agreement on revision of Waste Directive (COM(2015)595 final) reached in December 2017 – Expected entry into force – July 2018

Key provisions on food waste prevention:

- **Definition** of food waste
- **Member States obligations** on food waste prevention, including possible future EU targets
- **Reporting** obligation and **EU measurement methodology**

Definition of food waste

Definition:

Article 3.4(a) - "food waste" - means all food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council that has become waste.

Interpretation:

- **food** - as defined and applied in General Food Law - i.e. referring to entire food (including all its parts, both edible and not intended to be eaten),
- **which has become waste** – i.e. which the holder (in this case a food business operator or household) discards or intends or is required to discard

Member States obligations...

- **Reduce food waste generation at each stage in the food supply chain** (primary production, processing and manufacturing, retail and other distribution, restaurants and food services, households) as a contribution to the SDG 12.3, including hierarchy of actions.
- **Adopt** food waste prevention **programmes** (as specific part of MS waste prevention programmes)
- **Monitor and annually report** on food waste levels, based on **common EU methodology** (Delegated Act). It is planned that 2020 will be the first reporting period.

...and possible future EU targets

Targets (potential):

- ***"By 31 December 2023, the Commission shall examine data on food waste provided by Member States (...) with a view to considering the feasibility of setting up a Union-wide food waste reduction target to be met by 2030 (...)"***

Monitoring and reporting

- **Methodology - Delegated act** to be adopted by **end March 2019** – MS Expert Group has already started
- General approach **based on discussion in the Platform and its sub-group** on Food Waste Measurement – see **Outline** document
- References to **existing definitions** of **food** and of **waste** and their application in EU legislation
- **Monitoring separately** for **5 stages** of food supply chain, as mentioned in Waste Directive
- **Annual** reporting!

EU Pilot Project: Food Redistribution

- Investigate **regulatory and policy frameworks** – by November 2018
- Document with examples of **Member States' food donation practices** – next Platform (6 December 2018)
- Investigate **operational frameworks** for food redistribution in the EU - by end 2018
- Disseminate **EU food donation guidelines** in EU-28 in cooperation with stakeholders (2019) and seek feedback on their effectiveness (by 2020)



⇒ Final report with all deliverables – Q1 2020

EU guidelines: former food to feed: adopted 13 April 2018!

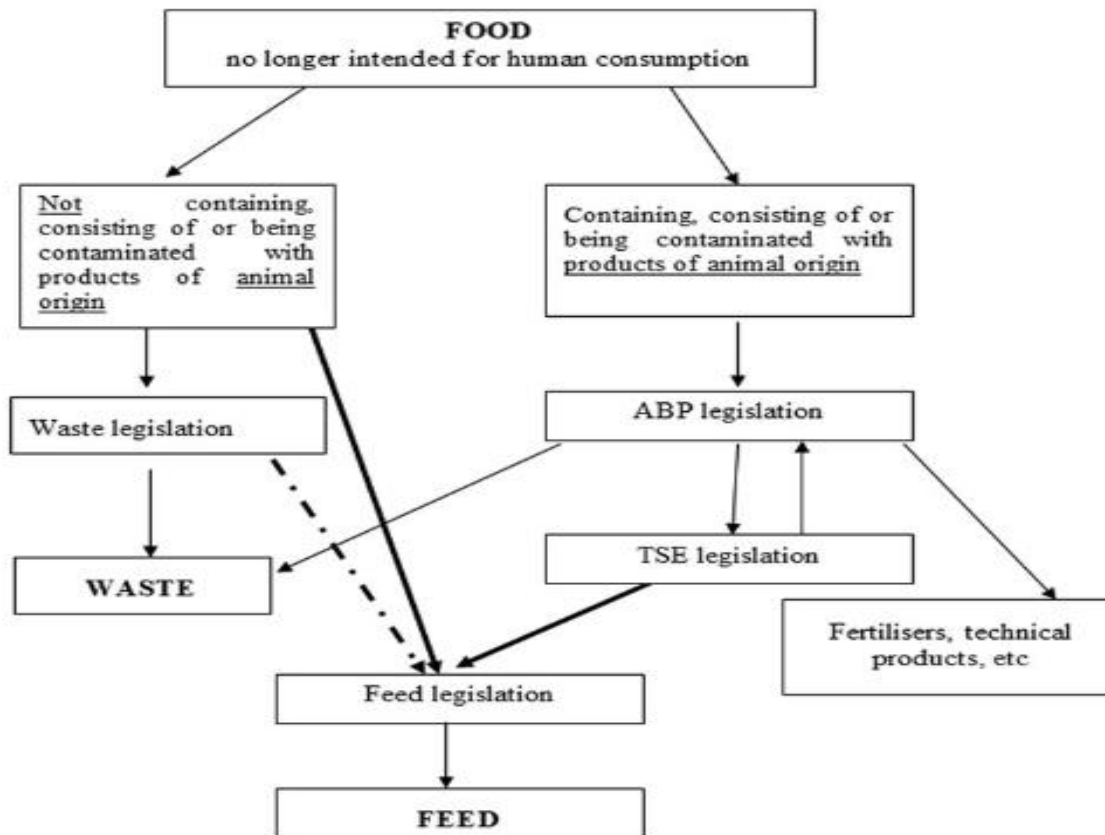
- Facilitate the safe feed use of former food, in line with "food use" hierarchy, and prevent food waste.
- Clarify application of relevant EU rules: food, feed and waste.
- Present best practice examples which comply with regulatory framework and prevent unnecessary administrative burden.





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Flow chart from food to feed



Legend: - - - ->: Special conditions

Date marking: next steps

A multi-faceted, co-ordinated and coherent action plan is required by all key players

Key objectives of policy actions:

- improve the differentiation between the concepts of "use by" and "best before"
- facilitate common understanding and use of date marking by all actors (industry, national competent authorities and consumers)

⇒ Sub-group established – 20 April 2018

Key considerations for policy action (1)

Avoidable food waste linked to date marking is likely to be reduced where:

- *a **date mark** is present, its meaning is clear and it is legible;*
- ***consumers** have a good understanding of date labelling (notably the **distinction** between "**use by**"- **as an indicator of safety** - and "**best before**"- **as an indicator of quality**);*
- *"**use by**" **dates** are used only where there is a **safety-based rationale**, consistent with the FIC Regulation;*

Key considerations for policy action (2)

Avoidable food waste linked to date marking is likely to be reduced where:

- *the **product life** is **consistent** with the findings of **safety and quality tests**, and is not shortened unnecessarily by other considerations, such as product marketing;*
- ***storage and open life** guidance are consistent with the findings safety and quality tests;*
- *there is a level of consistency in **storage of food at retail** and guidance for consumers regarding the temperatures for **storage at home**.*

Guiding principle for possible Commission actions related to date marking rules

As requested by Council (2016 Council Conclusions on Food Loss and Waste), the Commission will ensure that any proposals for changes to EU date marking rules (for the purpose of preventing food waste):

"...make a meaningful contribution to food waste prevention and not undermine either food safety or consumer information."

Main discussion outcomes: Sub-group on date marking

- Agreed to proceed with elaboration of scientific and technical guidance as a key priority for action
- Issues specific to functioning of supply chain to be further explored (*eg* refrigeration)
- Members to consider further possible opportunity for EU-level communications activities
- Support for pan-EU consumer research to explore possible future changes in format and terminology
- No consensus on benefit of extending Annex X

Sub-group on date marking: next steps

- Task force to be established to support drafting of EU scientific/technical guidance to support consistent date marking practices: call for volunteers
- Next meeting of sub-group planned for October

"Action and Implementation"

Key deliverables of the sub-group:

- key **recommendations for action** for/by Platform members addressing each stage in the food supply chain;
- a **common template** to ensure consistent and evidence-based reporting on food waste prevention initiatives

How to achieve the deliverables?

May-July
2018

- Collection of information on food waste prevention initiatives through the reporting template

October
2018

- Workshop with the sub-group members on 'best practices' criteria

November
2018

- Validation of the criteria by the sub-group and the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste

How to achieve the deliverables?

January
2019

- Analysis of collected food waste prevention initiatives and their relevant information

March
2019

- Workshop with the sub-group 'action and implementation' on the draft recommendations based on the rapporteurs' proposals

May/June
2019

- Presentation and adoption of the recommendations in the Platform meeting

Future work and meetings

- Pursue implementation of Circular Economy Action Plan
- New phase in Platform's work, focussed on own deliverables and outputs eg:
 - Member States food redistribution practices (2018)
 - Participation in dissemination events linked to EU food donation guidelines (2019)
 - Recommendations for food waste prevention actions (2019)

Future work and meetings

- Research and innovation to support EU food waste prevention:
 - EIT Food
 - FOOD 2030 and preparation of FP9 research programme
 - LIFE
 - Continued learning and outcomes from REFRESH

Thank you