



Update on food waste measurement

Bartosz Zambrzycki

European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety
Unit E1, Food information and composition,
food waste

Delegated Decision on food waste measurement

The purpose:

Waste Framework Directive - Art 9

3. Member States shall monitor and assess the implementation of their food waste prevention measures by measuring the levels of food waste on the basis of the methodology established in accordance with the delegated act (...)

3a. By 31 December 2023, the Commission shall examine data on food waste provided by Member States in accordance with Article 37(2) with a view to considering the feasibility of setting up a Union-wide food waste reduction target to be met by 2030 on the basis of the data reported by the Member States in accordance with the common methodology established pursuant to paragraph 4a of this Article.

The method:

Art 9 (8)

*By 31 March 2019, the Commission shall adopt, **on the basis of the outcome of the work of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste**, a delegated act in accordance with Article 38a to supplement this Directive by establishing a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste.*

The outcome:

*Title: **COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) .../... supplementing Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste***

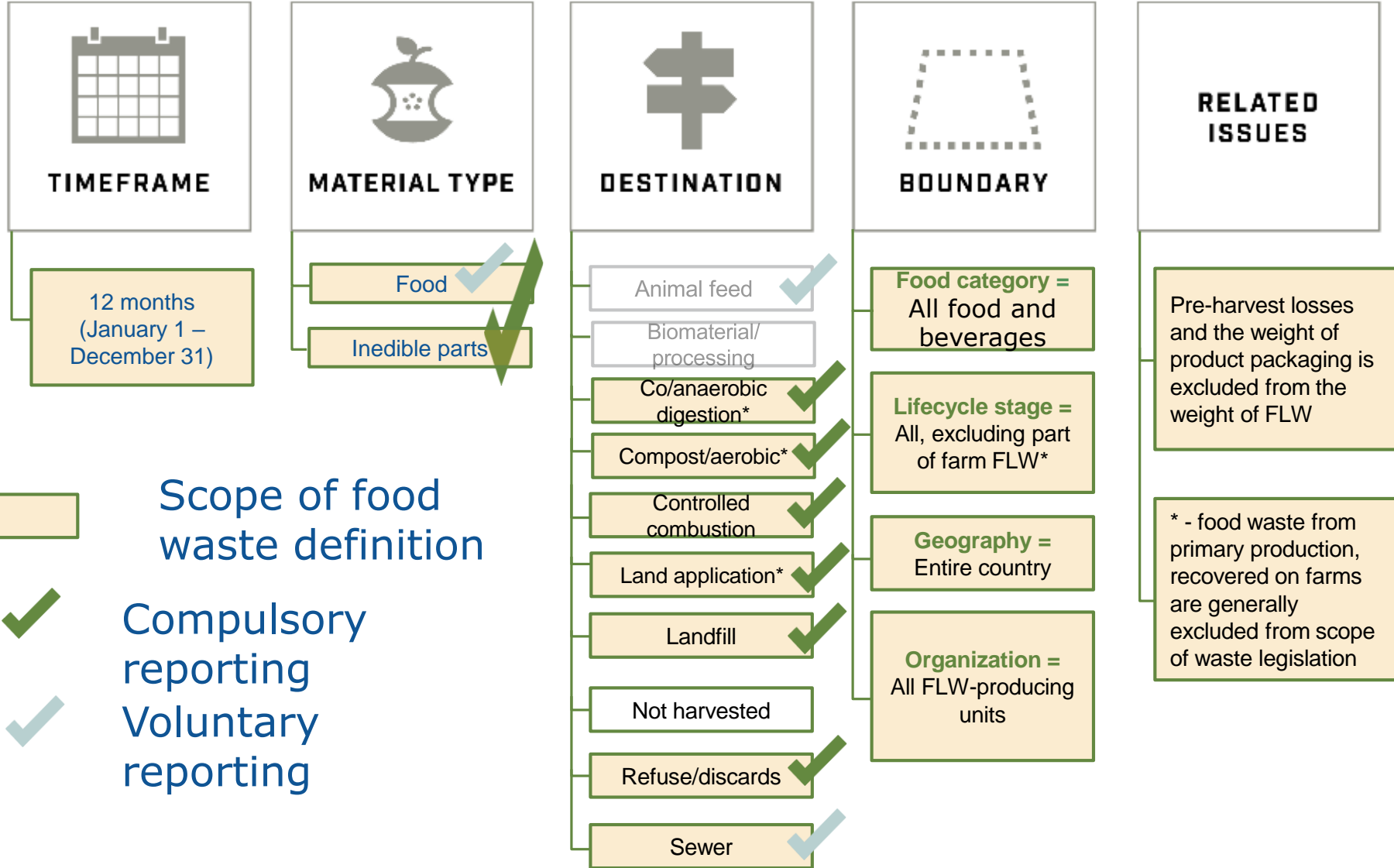
*Document reference: **C(2019) 3211***

Obligations of Member States:

- The Decision is addressed to Member States. They are to organize the data collection (including any further obligations on national FBOs).
- We have not defined one method of measurement and data collection: we proposed several of them, but more can be used as well as their combinations, but...
- ... Member States will need to provide us with explanations regarding methods used to monitor food waste (annual quality check report)



European Commission



Content of the delegated act – articles:

- **Art 1 – what to measure** – what shall be included and what shall be excluded. Reporting per stage of food supply chain
- **Art 2 – how to measure** – procedure to ensure annual reporting and quality data for target assessment, without unnecessary burden for MS.
- **Art 3 – voluntary reporting** – more detailed data on food waste (liquid waste, edible parts) and additional data important for food waste prevention policy (food for charity, food turned into animal feed)
- **Art 4 – minimum data quality requirements** - data quality will be verified and improved by quality check reports (part of implementing act on reporting format)

Content of the delegated act - Annexes

- ***Annex I*** – attribution to stages of food chain using economic statistics (NACE codes) – guidance for MS for use of existing statistics
- ***Annex II*** – link to European Waste Catalogue – guidance for MS with using Waste List
- ***Annex III*** – measurement methods per stage of food supply chain (recommended) – required on regular basis, at least once every 4 years.
- ***Annex IV*** – calculation methods – on how to calculate food waste amounts in the years between in-depth measurements to ensure annual reporting of best available data

Voluntary reporting

- **Edible fraction** of total food waste
- **unsold food turned to animal feed**
- **Food redistributed (food donation)**
- **Food waste disposed via the sewer (primarily liquids)**

Summary of comments received within the “feedback mechanism”

- **Flexibility, practicability and costs vs comparability and data quality**
- **Coverage of farm losses - food not harvested**

Reporting format and quality check report

Introduction:

- **Reporting format will be adopted as Implementing Decision – it will be discussed and voted in the Technical Advisory Committee on Waste.**
- **Reporting format depends very much on agreed methodology of measurement of food waste – to be adopted very soon (Monday 6th May)**

Reporting format - draft

Stage of the food supply chain	Food wasted generated			Food waste removed to sewer/wastewater (referred to in Article 3(b) of the Delegated Decision)	Food sent for redistribution (food donation) (referred to in Article 3(c) of the Delegated Decision)	Food placed on the market transformed into feed, including former food (referred to in Articles 3(d) and 3(e) of the Delegated Decision)	
	Total [t]	Please mark X in relevant column		Edible fraction of food waste (referred to in Article 3(a) of the Delegated Decision)			
		Data collected using Annex III of the Delegated Decision	Data collected using Annex IV of the Delegated Decision				
1. Primary Production							
2. Processing and manufacturing							
3. Distribution (including retail)							
4. Restaurants and food services							
5. Households							

Content of Quality Check Report – draft

1. Objectives of the quality check report
2. General information
- 3. Explain approach to collection of data if Annex III was used (just mark)**
- 4. Describe in details methods used if Annex III was used**
- 5. Describe in details methods used if Annex IV was used**
6. Voluntary reporting
7. Changes of methodologies and problems notifications
8. Confidentiality
9. References

Meeting of the Platform's subgroup on food waste measurement – 1st Feb 2019

Subgroup agenda

1. Global efforts on measurement of food loss and waste

- **Carola Fabi, FAO** – *“Experiences and recommendations of quantifying food loss and waste from primary production”*
- **Dr Felicitas Schneider, Thünen Institute** – *“Activities within MACS-G20 Initiative on Food Loss and Waste – with focus on primary production”*
- **Martin Bowman, Feedback Global**, *“Why the EU should measure harvest food waste”*

2. Lead studies on food loss and waste from primary production

- **Ole Jørgen, Ostfold Research**, *“Quantifying food waste in primary production – experiences from Nordic and Norwegian studies”*
- **Richard Swannell, WRAP**, *“Measuring food surplus & waste”*
- **Lisa K. Johnson, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, North Carolina State University**, *“Measuring field losses in US vegetable production”*

Meeting summary – part 1

- **Very little data available – no regular reporting**
- **Data gathered mainly by NGOs and academia**
- **Current definition of agricultural production does not include food left on the field.**
- **The focus was on food not-harvested (left on the field) – not on other farm loss.**
- **Basic approach is direct measurement – conducted by farmers or at least with farmers.**

Meeting summary – part 2

- **Top-down and bottom-up approaches – large baseline survey or compiling data collected by farmers.**
- **How to involve farmers?**
- **Measurement is only a tool - is market ready to accommodate food currently not-harvested?**

Next steps on farm loss and waste measurement

- **Food Waste Atlas as sharing tool**
- **Use of research funds for projects related to farm-level measurements**
- **Sub group on measurement will come back to the topic in coming years.**

Thank you!

