



April 2018

Mandate of sub-group established under the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to support EU activities in relation to date marking and food waste prevention

1. Background

As provided for in the Terms of Reference of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW) and its Rules of Procedure, the Chair of the Platform may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Platform. At the meeting of the EU Platform on FLW of 7 November 2017, it was agreed that a subgroup would be established in order to support work at EU level in relation to date marking and food waste prevention, as laid down in the Circular Economy Action Plan¹.

2. Objectives

The sub-group on date marking and food waste prevention is established in order to:

- facilitate a comprehensive and informed debate through the contribution of all key players;
- analyse and recommend options (legislative/non-legislative) to improve the understanding and use of date marking by actors in the food chain including consumers as well as regulatory authorities;
- share experience and best practice in relation to date marking and food waste prevention.

3. Principal tasks:

3.1. Discussion and analysis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission's study on date marking and food waste prevention as well as other relevant research;

3.2. Recommend actions required to promote more consistent use and understanding of date marking in order to prevent food waste:

3.3. Possible development of tools in relation to date marking and food waste prevention;

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015DC0614>, point 5.2

3.4. Information sharing on date marking activities in Member States: provide information and input on national/sectorial practices, guidelines and rules, recent studies and reports on date marking activities in view of their sharing with Platform members and publication on the "resource library" section² of the Commission's food waste website.

4. Invited participants:

Based on interest expressed by members of the Platform on FLW as well as previous contributions provided to the Commission by member organisations in relation to date marking, the Commission invites the following Platform members to participate in the work of the sub-group on date marking:

- Public entities:
Member States (15): BE, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, NL, PL, SE and SK
- Private sector organisations (11): EuroCommerce, European Cold Storage and Logistics Association (ECSLA), European Agri-Cooperatives (COGECA), European Dairy Association (EDA), FoodDrinkEurope (FDE), Independent Retail Europe, International Association of Plant Bakers (AIBI), Matvett AS, The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), University of Wageningen UR and WRAP.
- Observer: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

5. Overall timeline and working procedures:

The sub-group on date marking and food waste prevention will support the Platform's work in this area for the duration of its mandate (*ie* until end 2019).

The sub-group is expected to meet twice yearly (in addition to the Platform's plenary meetings) and will also provide comments and input on written documents related to the tasks outlined in paragraph 3.

The working language for sub-group meetings will be English.

² http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/library_en