



24 February 2022

**Mandate of sub-group established under the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to support EU activities on "action and implementation"**

**1. Background**

As provided for in the Terms of Reference of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW)<sup>1</sup> 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. Following the request of the members of the EU Platform on FLW at its first meeting in 2016, it was agreed that a sub-group will be established to focus on actions and their implementation put in place by the members of the EU Platform to prevent food losses and waste<sup>2</sup>.

In the Platform's first mandate, the subgroup on Action & Implementation (A&I) supported members in sharing best practices, information and learning related to food waste prevention initiatives and their results. The subgroup contributed to key deliverables such as the Platform's key recommendations for action in food waste prevention<sup>3</sup> and the development of an evaluation framework allowing actors to quantify the economic, environmental and social impacts of food waste prevention actions<sup>4</sup>. Feedback<sup>5</sup> from Platform members collected at the end of its first mandate confirmed the importance of maintaining this forum in the new mandate of the expert group (2022-2026).

Tackling food loss and waste is key to achieving sustainability, as highlighted in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>6</sup>. As part of the Strategy, the Commission committed to integrate food loss and waste prevention in other EU policies and to coordinate action at EU level in order to reinforce action at national level, including by further disseminating the Platform's key recommendations for action in food waste prevention. At the inaugural meeting of the EU Platform on FLW under its second mandate (2022-2026), it was agreed that the A&I sub-group will continue its activity and will support the Commission and all Platform members in achieving these important objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/core/api/front/expertGroupAdditionalInfo/41511/download>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2017-02/fw\\_eu-platform\\_20161129\\_sum.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2017-02/fw_eu-platform_20161129_sum.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/7143f94e-600f-4df5-acef-5b332e7e44ec\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/7143f94e-600f-4df5-acef-5b332e7e44ec_en)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/0d94b6cd-e462-4912-80a2-3e1a91042a51\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/document/download/0d94b6cd-e462-4912-80a2-3e1a91042a51_en)

<sup>5</sup> Ahead of the re-establishment of the Platform for a new mandate, members were asked to reply to a survey on the role and the operations of the expert group (48 contributions received). When asked about the relevance of the Action & Implementation subgroup, most of the respondents considered it very important (68.75%) or important (25%).

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0381>

## 2. Objectives

The sub-group will support the EU Platform on FLW and the Commission in identifying and implementing effective, evidence-based interventions to reduce food loss and waste. In particular, the group aims to:

- 1) provide a forum for exchange on effective interventions and innovative solutions to reduce food loss and waste and progress made towards SDG Target 12.3;
- 2) help improve the current EU evaluation framework for food waste prevention actions<sup>7</sup> and identify the most promising actions;
- 3) build an evidence base and identify areas where intervention by actors could help to prevent losses and waste in the food value chain, including facilitation of inter-sectorial cooperation, as well as areas where further research is needed;
- 4) assess how food loss and waste prevention can be strengthened through its integration with other relevant policy areas (e.g. agriculture, climate, feed, trade agreements etc.).

## 3. Principal tasks:

- 3.1. Contribute to the collection and analysis of information on food waste prevention interventions.
- 3.2. Assist the Commission in refining the EU evaluation framework for food waste prevention actions developed in 2019.
- 3.3. Explore the inter-connections between the different actors of the food value chain and their impacts on food losses and food waste.
- 3.4. Support all members in identifying and implementing appropriate actions to facilitate safe use of co-products and former foodstuffs for animal feed and overcome identified barriers in line with EU actions.
- 3.5. Support members in identifying and implementing effective interventions (carried out at national, regional and local levels) to prevent food waste in the food value chain, in particular initiatives requiring inter-sectorial cooperation and those that change the behavior of food business operators<sup>8</sup>.
- 3.6. Exchange information on the latest developments in food loss and waste prevention, experience, evidence-based good practices and lessons learned, in particular on the implementation of national food waste prevention programmes and role of voluntary agreements. Such information may also be shared through the [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#).
- 3.7. Identify research needs in food loss and waste prevention and assess technologies and innovative solutions with a potential of being transferred and/or scaled up, including from EU-funded projects.
- 3.8. Contribute to the dissemination of the Platform's key recommendations for action and assess the need for their review.

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<sup>7</sup> [Assessment of food waste prevention actions \(JRC 2019\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> Interventions targeting consumer behavioural change will be addressed primarily through the consumer food waste prevention sub-group.

#### 4. Participants

Based on interest expressed by Platform members in their applications and via the survey, the Commission invites the following Platform members to participate in the work of the sub-group on action and implementation:

Public entities (4): European Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environment Programme.

Member States (8): Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia.

Private sector organisations (31): BOROUME, COGECA - European Agri-cooperatives, Consorzio Bestack, COPA - European Farmers, DUH - Deutsche Umwelthilfe, ECSLA - European Cold Storage and Logistics Association, EFFPA - The European Former Foodstuff Processors Association, Euro Commerce, Euro Coop, FEBA - European Food Banks Federation, FEFAC - European Feed Manufacturers Federation, FOODDRINKEUROPE, FoodWIN, Fruta Feia CRL, Fundación AZTI – AZTI Fundazioa, Harokopio University, HFBA - Hungarian Food Bank Association, HOTREC, Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei, Rabobank, Regal Normandie, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB, SLOW FOOD, Stop Wasting Food Movement DK, VENTURIS HORECA, WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme, WUR - Wageningen University & Research, WUWM - World Union of Wholesale Markets, WWF EPO - World Wide Fund for Nature European Policy Office, Zero Waste Scotland.

Observer: Norway.

Taking into account the field of activity of this sub-group and its relevance for all members represented in the EU Platform, the participation might be extended on a case-by-case basis to other Platform members, as well as ad hoc experts<sup>9</sup>, if needed.

#### 5. Co-chairs of meetings

In line with the Platform's Terms of Reference, '*sub-group meetings may be co-chaired by DG SANTE and Platform members, as appointed by DG SANTE based on their expertise and expressed interest to coordinate work related to their field of expertise.*' Co-chairs appointed from among the Platform membership may request to hold meetings of their respective sub-groups, propose agenda items and topics for discussion. Co-chairing will be done through rotation, for those members who have expressed an interest in acting as co-chair in their application form. Expressions of interest in co-chairing may be updated during the course of the Platform's mandate.

The Commission will update the **co-chairing calendar** based on the interests expressed by members.

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<sup>9</sup> Terms of Reference EU Platform on FLW, <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/core/api/front/expertGroupAdditionalInfo/41511/download>

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Year</b>
Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Rabobank	2022
European Former Foodstuff Processors Association (EFFPA) Wageningen University & Research	2023
Venturis Horeca COPA	2024
Consorzio Bestack Food and Agriculture Organisation	2025
Harokopio University Zero Waste Scotland	2026

## **6. Overall timeline and working procedures:**

The sub-group on action and implementation will support the Platform's work in this area for the duration of its mandate (*i.e.* until end of 2026).

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

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