



***WORKING GROUP ON ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION***  
***SUB-GROUP TO THE EU PLATFORM ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE***  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

As provided for in the terms of reference of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste<sup>1</sup> (FLW) and its rules of procedure, the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety ('DG SANTE') may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by DG SANTE in consultation with Platform members. Following the request of the members of the Platform at its first meeting in 2016, DG SANTE took the initiative to establish a sub-group to focus on actions and their implementation put in place by the members of the Platform<sup>2</sup>.

In the Platform's first mandate, the sub-group on Action & Implementation (A&I) supported members in sharing best practices, information and learning related to food waste prevention initiatives and their results. The sub-group 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 sub-group within the new mandate of the Platform (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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://europa.eu/!qyXvwp>

<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 sub-group, 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>

Platform's key recommendations for action in food waste prevention. At the inaugural meeting of the Platform under its second mandate (2022-2026), it was proposed that the sub-group on A&I should continue its activity for the whole duration of the Platform's mandate (*i.e.* until end of 2026) supporting the Commission and all Platform members in achieving these important objectives. Therefore, DG SANTE has decided that the sub-group should continue to operate.

The sub-group will support the Platform and the Commission in identifying and implementing effective, evidence-based interventions to reduce food loss and waste. In particular, the group aims to 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; to 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 cooperation, as well as areas where further research is needed; and finally to 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.).

The sub-group is expected to meet twice a year (in addition to the Platform's plenary meetings). The sub-group shall regularly report on its activities to the Platform.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste and the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')<sup>7</sup>.

## 2. TASKS

The sub-group's tasks shall be to:

- (a) contribute to the collection and analysis of information on food waste prevention interventions;
- (b) assist the Commission in refining the EU evaluation framework for food waste prevention actions developed in 2019;
- (c) explore the inter-connections between the different actors of the food value chain and their impacts on food losses and food waste, and provide input and comments to future legislative initiatives linked to the reduction on food losses and food waste.
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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>;

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<sup>7</sup> C(2016) 3301.

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

- (f) 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](#);
- (g) 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;
- (h) contribute to the dissemination of the Platform's key recommendations for action and assess the need for their review.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members shall be Member States' authorities, other public entities, and organisations. All members shall be selected among members of the Platform.
2. Member States' authorities, other public entities, and organisations shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG SANTE may refuse the nomination by an organisation of a representative if it considers this nomination inappropriate in the light of the requirements specified in the call for applications. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.
3. Member organisations who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the sub-group's deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG SANTE, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the sub-group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

### **4. OBSERVERS**

1. Individuals, organisations or public entities other than Member States' authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation.
2. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the sub-group, and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the sub-group.

### **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 members may request to hold meetings of their respective sub-groups, propose agenda items and topics for discussion. Co-chairing will

take place on a rotational basis, 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.

<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

Done in Brussels, on 2 May 2024.