



# **Planned approach to elaboration of methodology to monitor food waste**

**Bartosz Zambrzycki**

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

# Why do we need to monitor food waste

## Policy commitments

- *Global: SDG 12.3*
- *EU: Commission's proposal COM(2015)595 final)*

# Sustainable Development Goal 12 – responsible consumption and production

**Target 12.3:** *"by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the **retail and consumer level**, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses"*



## Commission's Proposal (COM(2015)595 final)

The Proposal amends Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). In relation to food waste it reflects commitment to SDG 12.3 and requires MS to:

- reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain (including households)
- **monitor food waste levels**
- **report back on progress.**

# EU data on food loss and waste are inadequate

- We need these data to:
  - Compare policy efficiency between MS
  - Report against SDGs and other international targets
  - Encourage prevention, as „numbers lead to action“

# Food waste and food loss

- The Commission first priority is to address food waste as required by Commission's Proposal
- The issue of food loss - as an issue outside the scope of waste policy - is planned to be discussed separately with the global actors (UN agencies) and of course within **the Platform!**



# **Understanding of food waste in EU Regulatory Framework**

# Existing legislative framework (1)

General Food Law (2002/178/EC) – definition of food

*art 2.*

*Food means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans (...)*

*Food shall not include:*

*(...)*

*(b) live animals unless they are prepared for placing on the market for human consumption;*

*(c) plants prior to harvesting;*

*(...)*



## Existing legislative framework (2)

Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) –  
definition of waste

*Art 3. "Waste" means any substance or object  
which the holder discards or intends or is  
required to discard*

## Understanding of food waste

*Food waste is food (as defined in GFL, including inedible parts) which the holder (FBO or household) discards or intends or is required to discard.*

*or: **Food waste is material which has once been a food and now is being discarded (becomes a waste)***

# Food waste concept vs earlier definitions

## ***FUSIONS definition***

*"Food and inedible parts of food removed from the food supply chain" to be recovered or disposed (including - composted, crops ploughed in/not harvested, anaerobic digestion, bioenergy production, co-generation, incineration, disposal to sewer, landfill or discarded to sea).*

## **2014 Commission Proposal**

*"food waste" means food (including inedible parts) lost from the food supply chain, not including food diverted to material uses such as bio-based products, animal feed, or sent for redistribution;*



# **Monitoring of food waste in the Commission's Proposal**

## Scope of monitoring of food waste

*Food waste to be monitored as specified in Waste Framework Directive should cover only food waste within the scope of WFD.*

*Two main exclusions from WFD:*

- agricultural biomass used in farming, or for the production of energy (art 2.1.f)
- animal by-products except those which are destined for incineration, landfilling or use in a biogas or composting plant (art. 2.2.b)

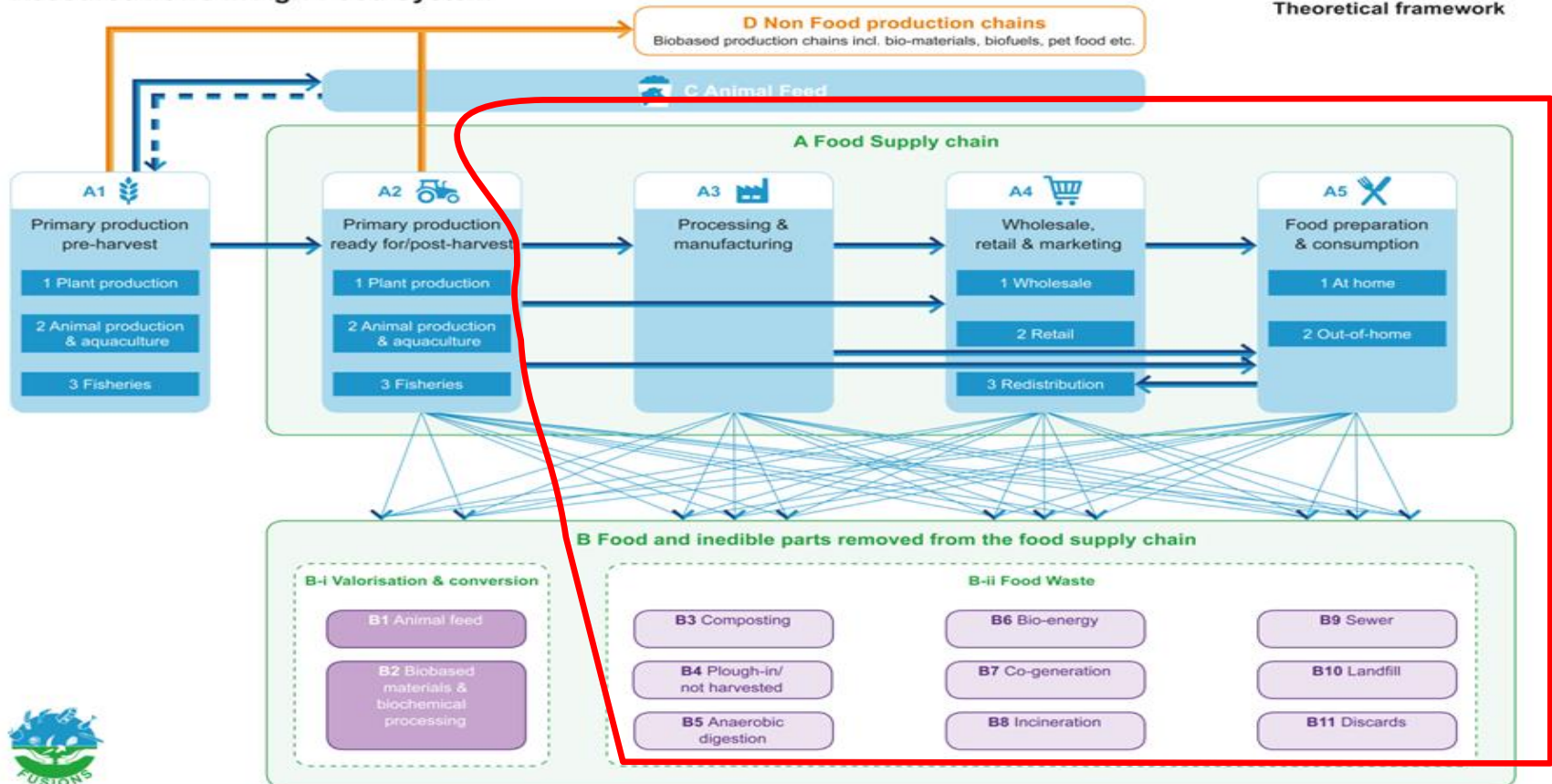


European  
Commission

# FUSIONS framework – vs scope of COM Proposal

Resource flows in Agri-Food System

FUSIONS  
Theoretical framework



## Approach to monitoring of food waste:

- Based on FUSIONS
- Fits existing regulatory framework
- Uses to the extent possible existing reporting and policy frameworks (e.g. ESTAT waste reporting, Waste Prevention Programmes)
- Able to provide data for SDG 12.3
- Compatible with FLW Protocol
- Focused on resource efficiency of whole food supply chain

# How to monitor food waste – some thoughts

- No defined method of data collection: surveys, administrative data, statistical estimations as well as their combination can be used
- Whatever method will be used by Member State it will be necessary to provide more detailed explanation regarding method of data collection
- **FUSIONS manual** and **FLW Protocol** include a lot of practical info on measuring and quantifying food waste at MS level (Manual) and organisation level (Protocol)
- Obligation of separate collection of bio-waste may significantly improve monitoring of food waste



## **Content of the outline document:**

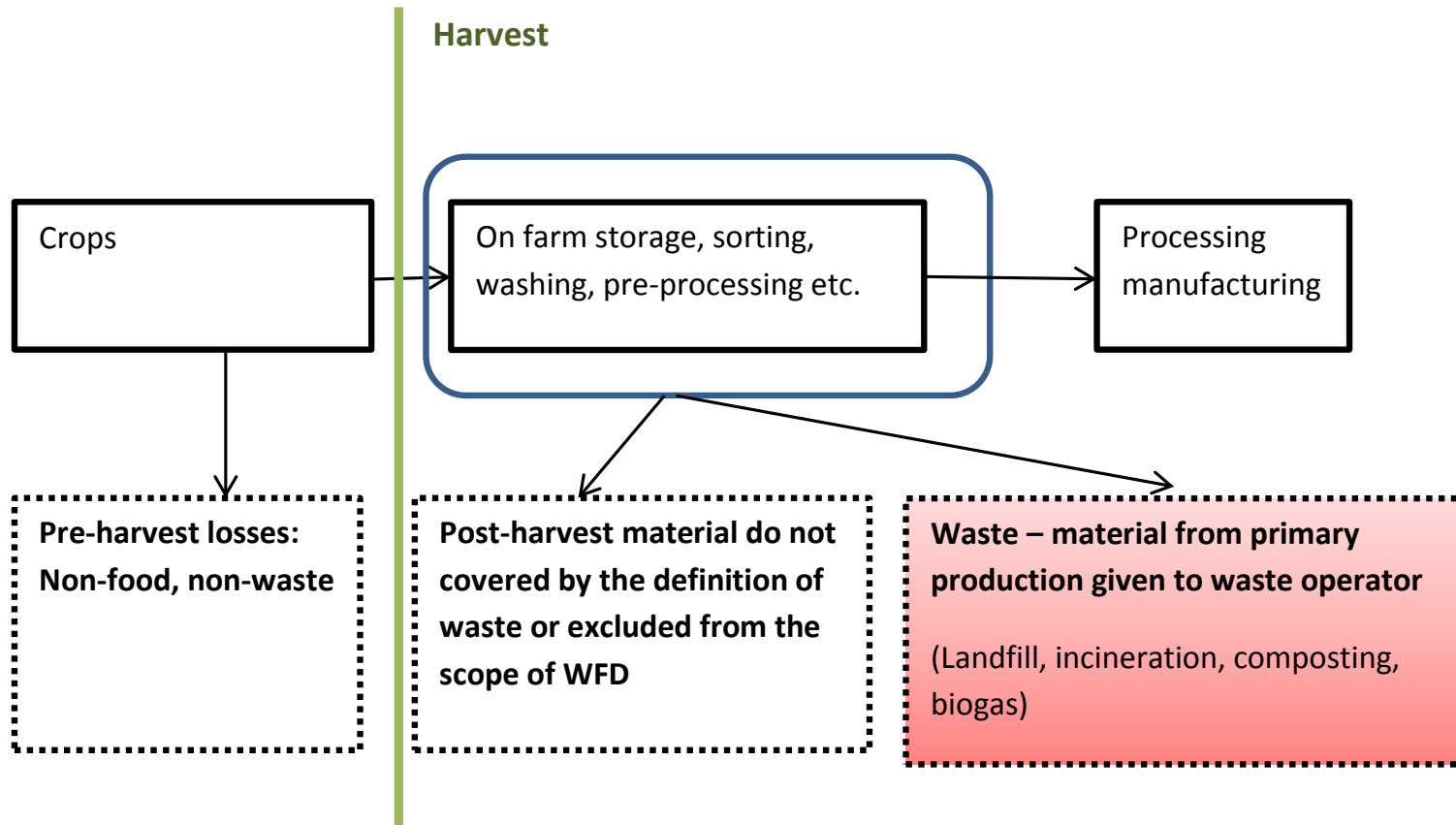
Food waste to be monitored in food supply chain (sector by sector)

## Sectors of food supply chain (as referred to in new art 9 of WFD)

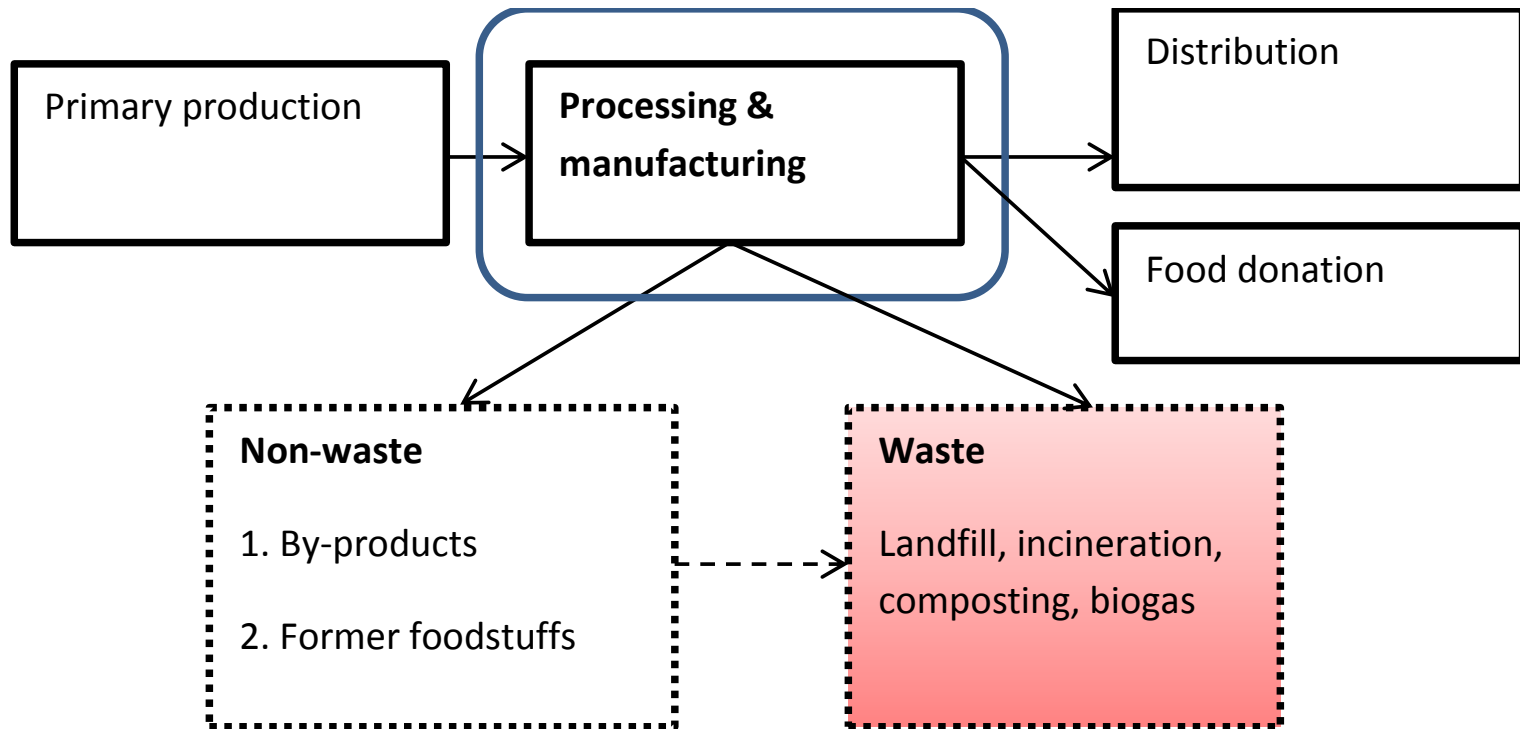
1. Primary production
2. Processing and manufacturing
3. Distribution
4. Food services
5. Households

**Important:** As each sector requires different policy approach they should be monitored separately.

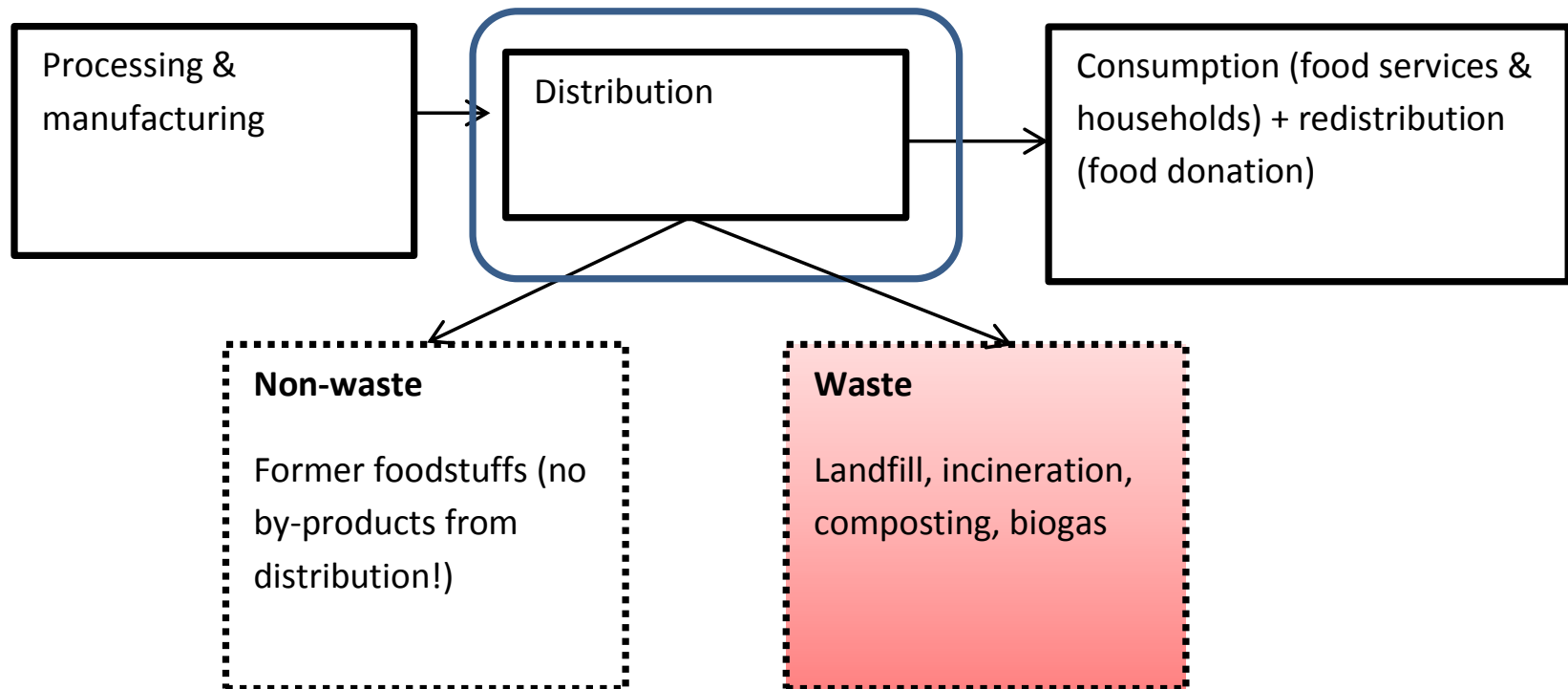
# Step 1 – Primary production



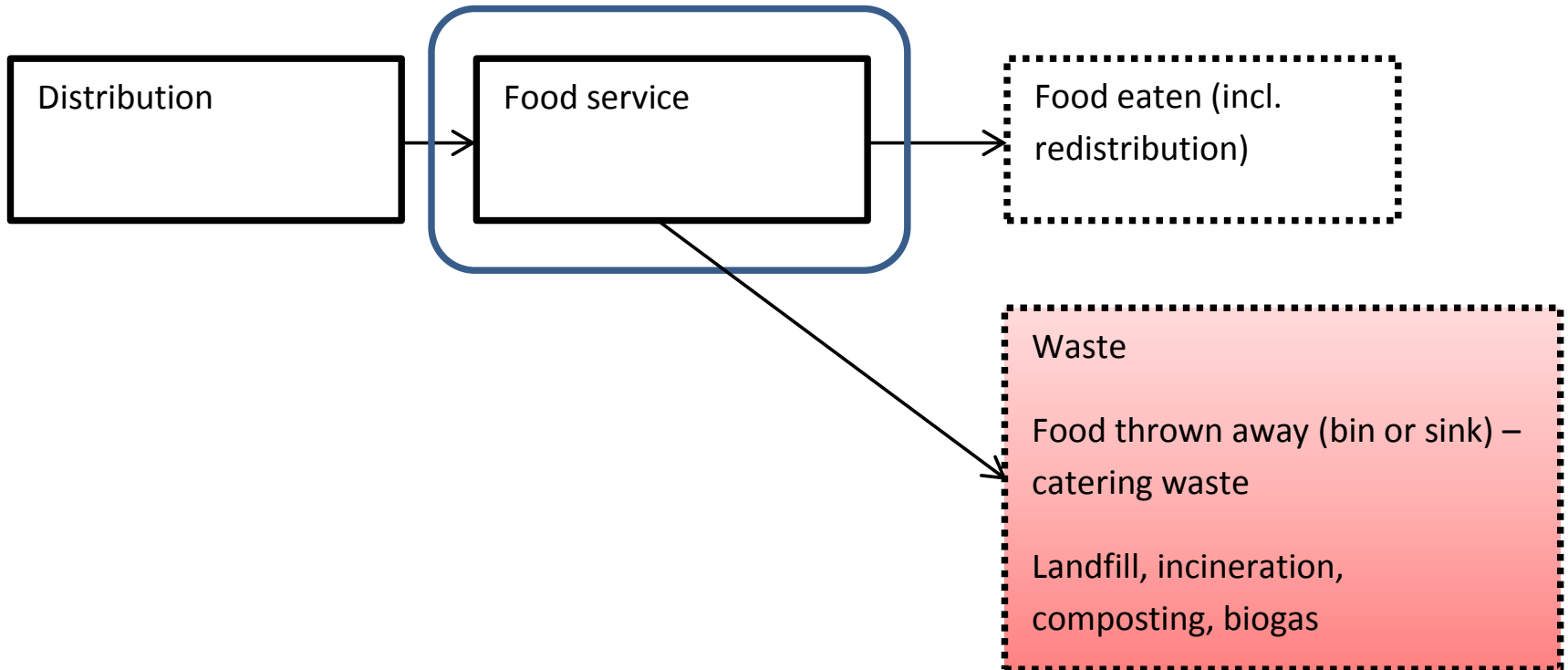
## Step 2 – manufacturing and processing



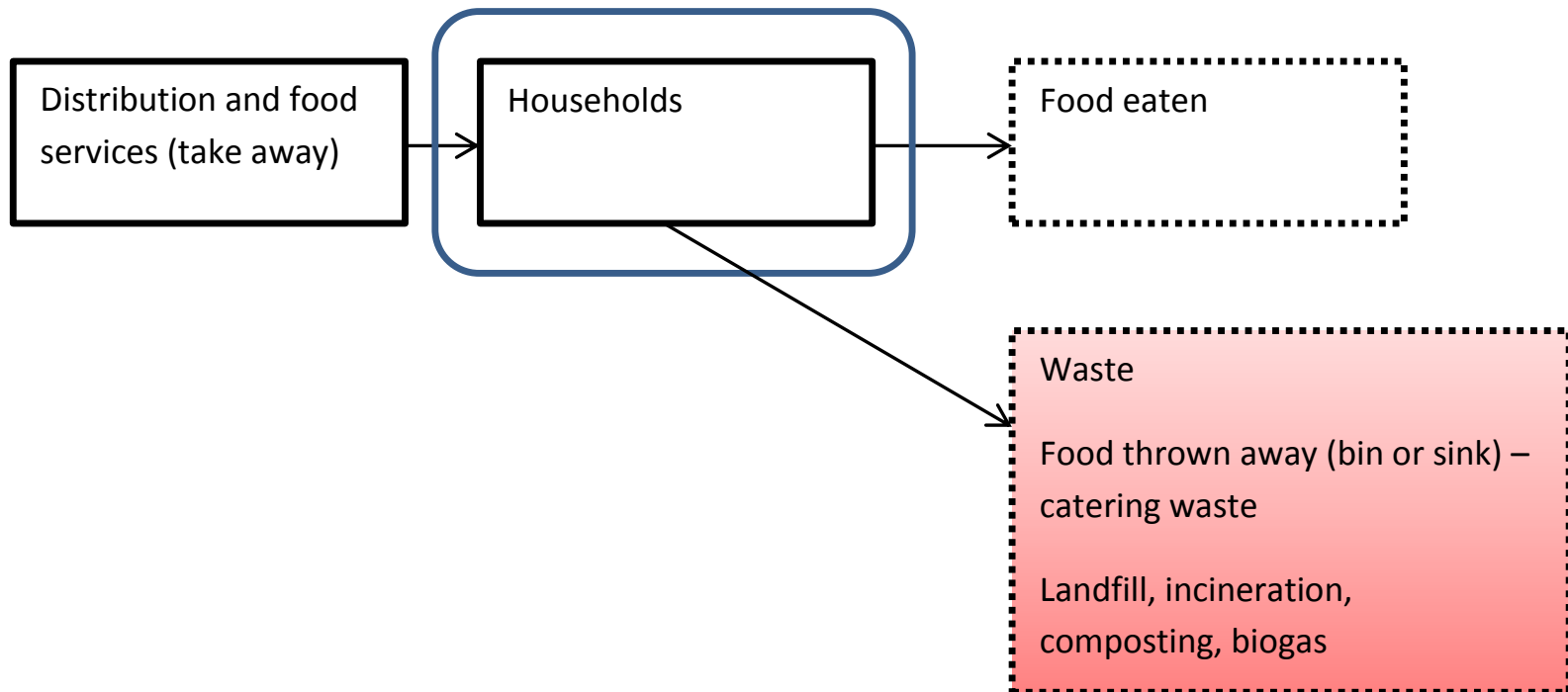
## Step 3 – retail and distribution



# Step 4 – food services



# Step 5 - Households



# Timeline of legislative process



## Indicative timeline of monitoring

End of 2017 - Adoption of amended Waste Framework Directive

End of 2018 - Adoption of implementing act establishing a common methodology.

Jan 2020 - Start of the first reporting period

## Legislative process

WFD is subject to ordinary legislative procedure. Hence discussion on **definitions, obligations to monitor, waste prevention targets** continues in the Council and Parliament.

**Details of monitoring** – e.g. boundaries of the sectors, dealing with problematic streams (e.g. liquid waste); specific measurement for policy needs (e.g. edible/inedible) – **are to be agreed with Member States in the implementing act.**

# Questions for discussion

# Questions for discussion

- **Food waste**

- Would you like to see more detailed monitoring on EU level (e.g. avoidable vs non-avoidable? by type of food? by treatment of food waste? Others?). If yes, will you be able to deliver such data?
- What you see as key challenges for implementation of monitoring in practice? In your sector? in your country?

- **Food loss**

- Do you already monitor or intend to monitor food loss? If yes, how it is conducted?



European  
Commission

**Thank you for your attention**