

# Legislative Initiative on a framework on a Union sustainable food system

DG SANTE

European Union



# Goals of the F2F Strategy



**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly EU food system



**BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FOOD VALUE CHAIN**

- 1) Ensure sustainable food production
- 2) Stimulate sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services practices
- 3) Promote sustainable consumption & facilitate shift to healthy and sustainable diets
- 4) Reduce food loss and food waste
- 5) Ensure food security, combat food fraud



**ENABLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION**

- 1) Research & innovation
- 2) Advisory services, data and skills



**PROMOTE A GLOBAL TRANSITION:** coherent global EU food policy



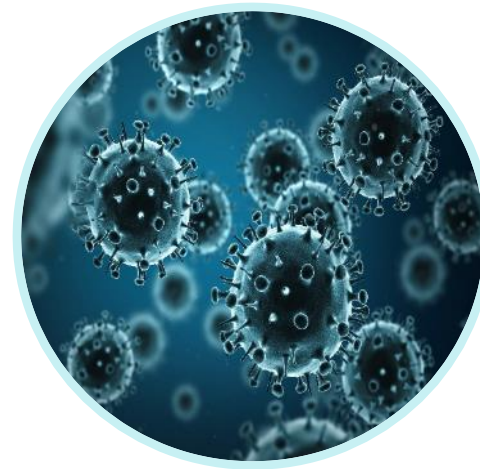
# 2030 Targets for sustainable food production



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of **chemical pesticides** and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides**



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20 %



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and a significant increase in **organic aquaculture**

# Farm to Fork Strategy: 27 actions

New legislative proposals

Revision of current legislation

Non legislative such as Code of conduct, action plans



# New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

- ✓ Currently no dedicated EU framework law on food sustainability similar to the EU framework law on food/feed safety, i.e. General Food Law (GFL)
- ✓ Different pieces of legislation address some components of food sustainability, e.g. Pesticides, GMOs, (food) waste, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), but none do so holistically
- ✓ Fitness Check of the GFL (2018) → regulatory framework found largely inadequate to address the new challenges of food sustainability



# Objective of Union level intervention

**Ensure that all foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable through a socially responsible food value chain**

- an enabling environment for future policy and legislation, ensuring coherence with all EU food related policies in terms of sustainability objectives, including biodiversity and climate objectives;
- a favourable and transparent food environment making it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets;
- avoid externalisation of unsustainable practices and raise global standards, while remaining within planetary boundaries;
- optimise the production, distribution and consumption of food, so as to increase resource efficiency and reduce food loss and waste.



# Policy options to achieve the objectives

- ✓ Option 1 – Baseline
- ✓ Option 2 – Voluntary approaches
- ✓ Option 3 – Reinforcing existing legislation
- ✓ Option 4 – New comprehensive framework legislation on the sustainability of the Union food system → *lex generalis*, setting the basis for an integrated approach for *lex specialis*; **Push provisions** would introduce minimum requirements for food products and related operations. For the food operations and products that meet the minimum requirements and are on the market, **pull provisions** would set incentives for producers to go beyond the minimal requirements



# Indicative elements for the policy options

- ✓ Sustainability principles & objectives to provide common understanding
- ✓ **Definitions:** ‘*food system*’, ‘*sustainable food system*’, ‘*food environment*’, ‘*food system actors*’, ‘*sustainability analysis*’, ‘*healthy/sustainable diets*’, ‘*traceability for sustainability purposes*’
- ✓ **Minimum sustainability standards** for foods/food operations
- ✓ **Responsibilities** of food system’s actors
- ✓ Horizontal elements for **sustainability analysis for regulated products** in the food chain
  - *relation between risk analysis (GFL) and sustainability analysis (FSFS)*
  - *consequences of the sustainability analysis*
  - *body to carry out sustainability analysis*

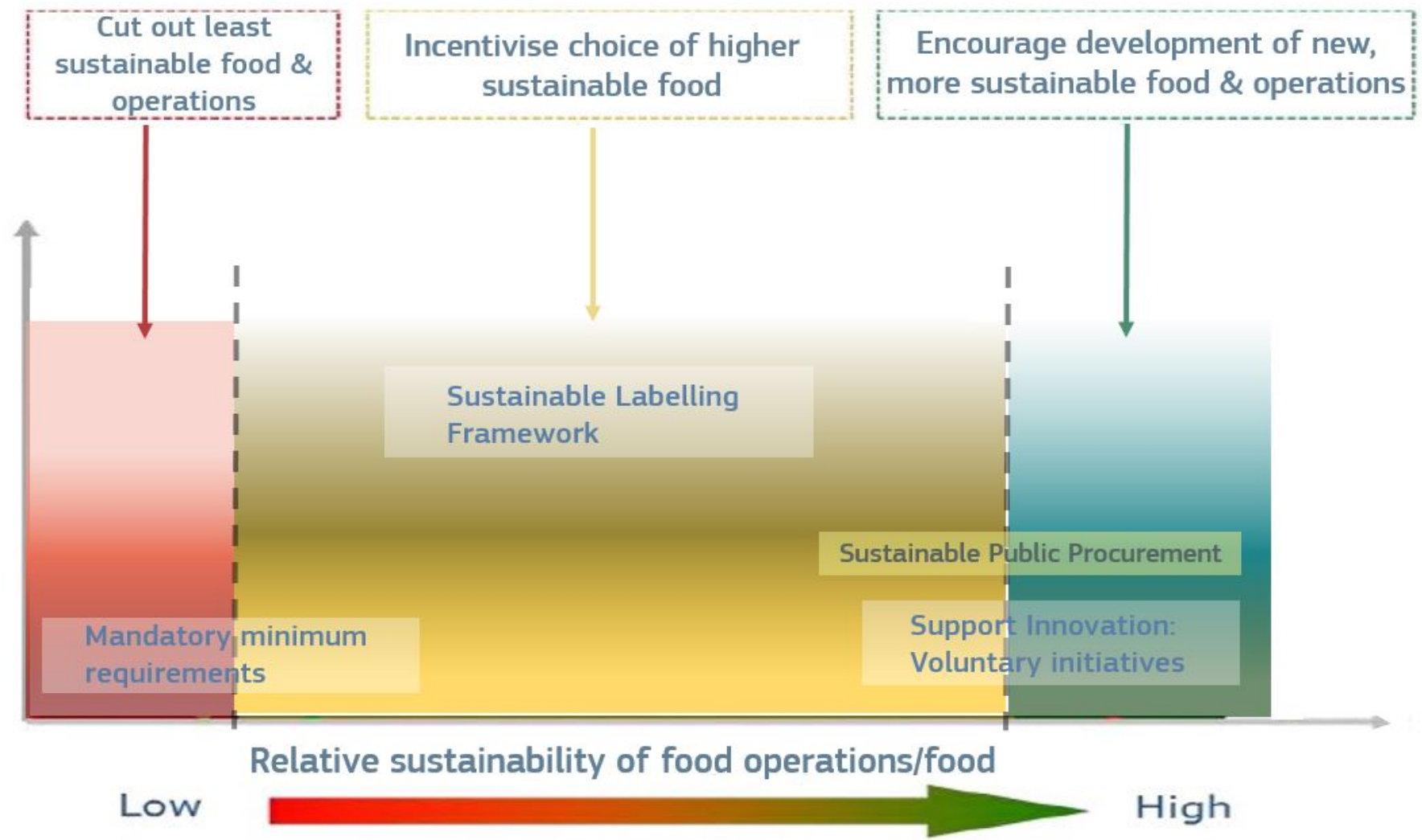




# Indicative elements for the policy options

- ✓ Legitimate and proportionate requirements on sustainability for imports of food (e.g. WTO conformity)
- ✓ **Processes to ensure synergies/mechanisms** to facilitate the transition towards sustainable food systems
- ✓ **Sustainable labelling**
- ✓ Minimum mandatory sustainability criteria for **public procurement**
- ✓ **Governance** systems and transparency/consultations
- ✓ Actions to **mitigate negative impacts** of the transition on food system actors
- ✓ **Monitoring**





# Impacts to analyse in the IA

- ✓ **Economic**
- ✓ **Social**
- ✓ **Enviromental**
- ✓ Impacts on fundamental rights
- ✓ Impacts on simplification and/or administrative burdens

→ quantify the possible administrative burden linked to the policy measures to the extent possible and identify, where appropriate, the possibilities for minimising and mitigating it, for example with digital solutions or increased collaboration amongst the actors



# Likely economic impacts (1)

- ✓ **Short term:** sustainability requirements likely to bring about extra costs for manufacturers, retailers, the food service sector, and particularly primary producers in relation to sustainability requirement → higher prices
- ✓ **Long term:**
  - ✓ consumption and production patterns are expected to change:
    - ✓ Demand increase for sustainable foods for private and public uses
    - ✓ More widely use of sustainable foods and production methods with positive economies of scale for sustainable production methods.
      - Expected results: competitive advantage for those who have gone through the transition;
  - ✓ [due to changes in the consumption and production patterns,] high value innovative products are likely to be developed → increased exports and associated benefits for growth and jobs;
  - ✓ sustainable production methods are expected to reduce overall costs of the food system, in part due to lower negative environmental externalities and improved resilience with possibly positive food security effects;
  - ✓ reduced costs could positively impact the affordability of sustainable diets for consumers



# Likely economic impacts (2)

- ✓ Optimising the production, distribution and consumption of food so as to increase resource efficiency and **reducing food loss and waste has the potential to bring economic benefits for food system actors.**
- ✓ In broader terms, [by ensuring a common understanding of the sustainability concept and related objectives] it will be easier for public and private investors to search for, identify and assess investments supporting sustainable food systems → steering private and public financial flows towards sustainable food value chain activities.
- ✓ Mitigation measures will aim at reducing, where possible, the impacts of the transition, in particular for SMEs, including primary producers.
- ✓ Better information along food value chain is expected to facilitate enforcement by public authorities.
- ✓ Affordable healthy diets would benefit people's health and quality of life and contribute to reducing health-related costs for society and individual citizens.



# Likely social impacts

- ✓ Easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets
- ✓ Provisions leading to systematic changes ensuring that sustainable food placed on the EU market **becomes mainstream for all parts of society**
- ✓ Tackling **food loss and waste/recovery and redistribution** of surplus food → **social dimension for those in need**
- ✓ **Value of food is expected to increase** → higher appreciation of the farming and fishing sector → occupation more attractive for the next generation → positive influence on the development of rural and coastal areas
- ✓ **Positive effect on the welfare of farmed animals** including contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance (N.B. cross-cutting impacts of animal welfare also environmental and economic aspects)
- ✓ **Boost the local business** structure and food production and processing in rural areas → positive implications for society and food security
- ✓ Maintain and further enhance **the positive reputation of Europe's rich culinary and culture**



# Likely environmental impacts

- ✓ **Contributing to the fight for climate change**, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions along the food chain and by creating carbon sinks, with particular attention paid to the risk of leakage
- ✓ **Reversing biodiversity loss** and fostering the efficient use of resources
- ✓ **Preserving the quality of natural resources and preventing pollution** (water, soil, air, etc. by reducing pesticides use and risk and supporting efficient use of fertilizer)
- ✓ **Reducing and managing waste**
- ✓ **Reducing pressure from the food system as a whole**, such as the pressure resulting from use of vegetated land, deforestation and freshwater withdrawals due to agriculture



# Next steps

- ✓ Analysis of the feedback on the inception impact assessment
  - ✓ Launch of the work on the impact assessment
  - ✓ Adoption of the initiative at the latest by December 2023
- continuous discussion with public and private stakeholders throughout the process





# Thank you



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