



24 February 2022

## **Mandate of the sub-group established under the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to support EU activities on ‘food loss and waste monitoring’**

### **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. At the inaugural meeting of the EU Platform on FLW in 2016, it was agreed that a subgroup would be established in order to support the Commission's work in relation to measurement of food loss and waste, as laid down in the Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)<sup>2</sup>.

In the Platform's first mandate, the subgroup on food waste measurement supported members in sharing information on food loss and waste measurement activities carried out by national authorities and actors in the food value chain and monitoring food waste levels. The subgroup also exchanged information with UN Agencies concerning the monitoring of SDG 12.3 target<sup>3</sup> in order to align EU reporting obligations. The subgroup contributed to developing a key deliverable of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (2015), as required under the revised Waste Framework Directive<sup>4</sup>: a common EU methodology and indicators to measure food waste<sup>5</sup>. Feedback from Platform members, collected at the end of its first mandate<sup>6</sup> confirmed the importance of maintaining this sub-group under the new mandate of the expert group (2022-2026).

As called for by the Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>7</sup>, the Commission will propose legally binding targets to reduce food waste across the EU, by end 2023, defined against a baseline for EU food waste levels set following the first EU-wide food waste monitoring. In addition to quantifying food waste levels, the Commission will investigate food losses at the production stage, and explore ways of preventing them.

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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> SDG 12.3: “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/851/oj?locale=en>

<sup>5</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_del/2019/1597/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_del/2019/1597/oj)

<sup>6</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 Food waste measurement subgroup, almost all of the respondents considered it very important (75%) or important (20.83%).

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en)

At the inaugural meeting of the EU Platform on FLW under its second mandate (2022-2026), it was agreed that the subgroup on food loss and waste monitoring would support these key actions. While the abovementioned actions refer to measurement at the country level, the subgroup will also discuss and disseminate food loss and waste measurement methods that could support action and implementation of food loss and waste prevention measures on a smaller scale (e.g. by individual food business operators).

## 2. Objectives

The sub-group on food loss and waste monitoring will support the work of the Commission and the EU Platform on FLW by contributing to:

- 1) the implementation and improvement of the EU monitoring and reporting framework enabling reporting on food waste amounts as envisaged in the amended Waste Framework Directive<sup>8</sup> as well as enabling reporting to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3 target (in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme<sup>9</sup>), in collaboration with Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU;
- 2) the development of indicators on food waste (including sector-specific), which could be used to effectively monitor implementation of food waste prevention policies;
- 3) the identification of data sets, data collection practices and experience of Platform members as well as relevant research in relation to measurement of food loss and waste in all sectors of the food supply chain and sharing them within the Platform as well as with the Commission and if relevant, with a wider public;
- 4) the discussion of the feasibility and technical possibility of monitoring of food loss and/or resource flows in agro-food industries in the EU, taking into account work carried out under relevant EU research projects<sup>10</sup>.

## 3. Principal tasks

- 3.1. Share the experience of Platform members in food loss and waste measurement: provide information and input on national/sectorial measurement activities (e.g. interpretation of definitions, data collection, methodologies, guidance, digital tools etc.), business cases, sustainability impacts<sup>11</sup>, recent studies and reports and guidelines with members and other stakeholders (through publication on the [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#)).
- 3.2. Exchange information with UN Agencies (FAO and UNEP) concerning monitoring of SDG 12.3 target in order to align reporting obligations and support the use of collected data to meet these obligations.

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<sup>8</sup> Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851

<sup>9</sup> FAO and UNEP respectively

<sup>10</sup> For example, HORIZON-CL6-2022-FARM2FORK-01-08: Research and innovation for food losses and waste prevention and reduction through harmonised measurement and monitoring

<sup>11</sup> Economic, social and environmental impacts

- 3.3. Analyse existing tools, studies and reports concerning monitoring of food losses in primary production in view of possible harmonisation of such monitoring at EU level.
- 3.4. Provide input and comments to the potential future reviews and legislative initiatives on the measurement and reporting of food loss and waste as well as on the development of related indicators.

#### **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 Food loss and waste monitoring:

Public entities (2): United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Member States (15): Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Private sector organisations (29): Clean Technology Centre, COGECA - European Agri-cooperatives, Consorzio Bestack, COPA - European Farmers, DUH - Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., ECSLA - European Cold Storage and Logistics Association, EUPPA - European Potato Processors' Association, EDA - European Dairy Association, Europatat, FEBA - European Food Banks Federation, FEFAC - European Feed Manufacturers Federation, FoodDrinkEurope, FoodServiceEurope, FruitVegetablesEUROPE (EUCOFEL), Fruta Feia CRL, Fundación AZTI – AZTI Fundazioa, Harokopio University, HOTREC, IFWC - International Food Waste Coalition, Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei, LASTMINUTEMARKET, Matvett-Norsus-Nofima Consortium, Regal Normandie, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB, Venturis Horeca, 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>12</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

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<sup>12</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/core/api/front/expertGroupAdditionalInfo/41511/download>

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 interest expressed by members.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Year</b>
Venturis Horeca	2022
Food and Agriculture Organisation Wageningen University & Research	2023
Germany Harokopio University	2024
Matvett, Norsus and Nofima Consortium Copa-Cogeca	2025
Denmark	2026

## 6. Overall timeline and working procedures

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

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

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

The scope and duration of the mandate of the sub-group may be reviewed following final adoption of the food waste reduction target<sup>13</sup> within the Waste Framework Directive by the European Council and the European Parliament.

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<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13223-Food-waste-reduction-targets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13223-Food-waste-reduction-targets_en)