



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Food and feed safety, innovation
Food information and composition, food waste

SUMMARY REPORT

EU PLATFORM ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE: SUB-GROUP ON ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP ON KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION IN FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

DG Research and Innovation

ROOM CDMA -1/SDR2

Rue du Champ de Mars 21, 1050 Brussels

30 September 2019 – From 10:00 to 17:00

European Commission: DG SANTE; DG AGRI ; DG ENV; DG EMPL ; JRC ; RTD

European Environment Agency (EEA)

Member States represented:

DE, DK, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, NL, PT, FI, SE.

Public entities:

Committee of the Regions (CoR), FAO.

Private sector organisations:

BEUC; BOROUME; CITY OF MILAN; COPA COGECA; EUROCOMMERCE; European Food Banks Federation (FEBA); European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC); FOODDRINKEUROPE; FOODSERVICEEUROPE; FOODWIN; FRESHFEL; HOTREC; OSTFOLD RESEARCH, Nofima and Matvett Consortium; SMEunited; WAGENINGEN University and Research; ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As part of the Platform's exercise to prepare key recommendations for action in food waste prevention, the European Commission organised a workshop on 30 September 2019 in Brussels, to discuss and refine the proposals prepared by the rapporteurs. The recommendations will address each stage of the food supply chain and food donation. They will also include cross-cutting recommendations for the whole supply chain.

2. WORKSHOP ON KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The event gathered members of the Action and implementation' sub-group, other Platform members and representatives from several Commission services. In order to ensure an open, structured and effective discussion, the workshop followed the World Café format and was facilitated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Following an introductory presentation by the Commission on the key objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop, JRC explained the working methods and carried out an icebreaker exercise, in order to familiarise participants with the process. Next, participants were divided into groups and asked to rotate between tables and discuss the draft recommendations for all stages of the supply chain and food donation, as well as cross-cutting recommendations and agree on their wording. The draft recommendations were prepared by relevant stakeholders, who act as rapporteurs for the different stages [Copa-Cogeca (primary production), FoodDrinkEurope (manufacturing), EuroCommerce (retail), HOTREC (hospitality/food services), Zero Waste Scotland (consumers) and FEBA (food redistribution)]. The European Commission proposed draft “cross-cutting” recommendations taking into account relevant input from the rapporteurs’ submissions as well as a recent report of the World Resources Institute, *Reducing food loss and waste. Setting a global action agenda*, previously circulated to Platform members as food for thought. Different tables were set up for this exercise with the respective rapporteur, a moderator to guide the discussion and a note-taker to record participants’ suggestions. At the end of the exercise, note-takers were asked to report back on the input received at their corresponding tables/stages of the food supply chain.

The workshop closed with a round of final considerations from participants, which can be summarised as follows:

- BEUC suggested that the international dimension of trade and its impact on food waste generation should also be taken into account while formulating the recommendations for action. The Commission took note of the remark that could be further considered by Platform members in finalising their recommendations. BEUC also brought into question the primary production recommendations to increase the number of marketing standards and to support use of new breeding techniques, veterinary medicines and plant protection products, inquiring as to whether evidence were available to justify the role of such measures in food waste prevention. In this context, it was explained that no consensus had been reached among participants as regards these recommendations; however, each Platform member would be given the 2

opportunity to validate the proposed actions and point out any outstanding issues or divergent views.

- FoodWIN advised that appropriate frameworks should be put in place to increase the costs related to food waste generation and treatment, while also incentivising food business operators to carry out public reporting of their food waste levels. The latter was also reinforced by FOODDRINKEUROPE, who suggested that all relevant organisations (public and private) should adopt such public reporting.
- DE called for more evidence-based actions. The Commission explained that the recommendations for action highlighted the lack of data and evaluation instruments needed to guide effective and urgent action to combat food losses and food waste and move towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 12.3 by 2030.
- HU highlighted the need to change social norms concerning food waste as a key cross-cutting recommendation and proposed education as a means to accomplish this objective.
- As regards the cross-cutting recommendation to integrate food loss and waste reduction as part of climate action strategies and programmes, ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND suggested to create further synergies with other related areas of action such as healthy diets, restoring the value of food, sustainable food systems etc. ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND also pointed out the importance of having strong political backing in order to ensure implementation of the actions recommended by the Platform.
- Wageningen UR further emphasised the importance of implementing the Platform's recommendations for action and promoting their inclusion in the political agenda of each Member State, while also urging all members to take ownership for the work carried out by the Platform.
- FAO pointed out the importance of disseminating information and sharing best practices in food loss and waste prevention with countries outside the EU.

In closing the meeting, the Commission thanked all participants for their valuable input and explained the next steps in the process. Following the workshop, the secretariat of the Platform will consolidate the inputs and submit the proposed draft for validation by members. The final document will be presented and discussed during the Platform meeting of 12 December 2019, which will take the shape of a public conference with a wider stakeholder participation. The conference [*Time's up for food waste! Setting the EU action agenda towards 2030*](#) aims to promote the dissemination of the Platform's recommendations, to take stock of EU and Platform actions carried out so far, and importantly, to debate future initiatives to help achieve the SDG Target 12.3.