

# **Farm to Fork Strategy and related implementation**

## **- State of play of the F2F initiatives**

Advisory group on sustainability of food systems

19 October 2022

DG SANTE - Farm to Fork

European Union



# Establish a sustainable food system that:



- **has neutral or positive environmental impact** of food production:
  - preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources;
  - mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact;
  - reversing the loss of biodiversity;



- **ensures food security and public health:**
  - Access for everyone to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food;
  - high standards of safety and quality, plant health, animal health and welfare



- **preserves the affordability of food**, while (a.o.):
  - generating fairer economic returns & fostering the competitiveness sector
  - promoting fair trade
  - safeguarding occupational health and safety
  - ensuring integrity of the single market



Food security and food safety are cornerstones of our food system, and will never be compromised

# Farm to Fork Strategy action plan: 27 actions

New legislative proposals

Revision of current legislation

Non legislative such as Code of conduct, action plans



# **Adopted initiatives/ Completed actions**



# Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The plan aims to ensure a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food to citizens at all times.
- The Commission published its [Communication](#) on the plan on 12 November 2021. It outlines areas for improvement and principles that should be adhered to in times of crisis.
- To implement those principles, the Commission established the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism ([EFSCM](#)).

- **Where we are in the process and next steps:**

- Since its first meeting in March 2022, the EFSCM met once in regular mode and three times in emergency mode (see also [expert group register](#)).
- It regularly gathers in subgroups to implement actions of the action plan.

# Adopt recommendations to each Member State addressing the nine specific objectives of the CAP, before submission of CAP strategic plans

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Provide each EU country with tailor-made recommendations, accompanied by a communication, to assist in the drafting of the national CAP Strategic Plans by identifying the key areas on which each EU country should focus.
- Based on an analysis of their agricultural sector and rural areas, to ensure:
  - The achievement of the ten specific CAP objectives;
  - The contribution to the Green Deal ambitions and more specifically six Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategy targets;
  - The Commission asked EU countries to determine specific national values for these targets and align their CAP Strategic Plans to them.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Publication on 18/12/2020:
  - Umbrella communication **COM(2020) 846 + Annex 1 on Green Deal targets;**
  - **27 Staff Working Documents (one for each Member State).**
- Assessment of the Member State draft CAP strategic plans (early 2022).

- **Next steps:**

- Approval and monitoring of CAP Strategic plans
- All CAP plans in the process of being formally adopted by the Commission before the end of 2022:
  - **9 CAP strategic plans adopted so far**

# Proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Setting out a corporate due diligence duty to identify, prevent, bring to an end, mitigate and account for adverse human rights and environmental impacts in the company's own operations, its subsidiaries and its value chain;
- The duty has been largely aligned with the steps of the OECD due diligence standards and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- The Commission has adopted its proposal in February 2022;
- The Council Working Party is analysing a compromise text;
- Eight committees of the European Parliament have taken up their work and some have published their draft opinion.

- **Next steps**

- Adoption of a Council general approach;
- Normal steps of a co-legislative process.

# Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural input and output (SAIO)

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural input and output includes provision of statistics on plant protection products (adopted in February 2021);
- Repealed Regulation on Pesticide statistics;
- It will improve the availability of PPP sales and use statistics.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Political compromise reached 2 June 2022;
- Adoption foreseen Q4/2022.

- **Next steps:**

- Implementing regulation on PPP statistics to be adopted before the end of 2023;
- Entry into force in 2025.



# Ongoing initiatives



# Food labelling initiatives: FOPNL, nutrient profiles, origin indication, date marking, labelling of alcoholic beverages

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The revision of the Food Information to Consumers (FIC) Regulation aims to
  - enable consumers to make **informed** and **health-conscious food choices**;
  - avoid a situation where **nutrition and health claims** would mask the overall nutritional status of a food, which could mislead consumers when trying to make healthy choices;
  - allow consumers to better identify the **origin of food** and facilitate consumers' informed food choices;
  - prevent consumers from unnecessarily discarding foods past their 'best before' date by tackling the misunderstanding and misuse of **date marking** (the 'use by' and 'best before' dates); and,
  - increase the level of consumer awareness of the content and nutritional composition of **alcoholic beverages**.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- External study launched in August 2021 (9 months)
- Consultation activities:
  - Open Public Consultation : 13 December 2021 to 7 March 2022: 3225 contributions. Factual summary report published [here](#).
  - Targeted survey 14 February 2022 to 18 March 2022: 200 contributions
- Publication of four **JRC reports** on 9 September 2022: [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/evidence-food-information-empowering-consumers-make-healthy-and-sustainable-choices-2022-09-09\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/evidence-food-information-empowering-consumers-make-healthy-and-sustainable-choices-2022-09-09_en)

- **Next steps:**

- Preparation of the legislative proposal and adoption in the coming months.
- Co-decision process to start in 2023 after adoption.

# EU-level targets for food waste reduction

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**
  - Strongly involve MS in food waste prevention
  - Accelerate EU progress towards SDGs 12.3
- **Where we are in the process:**
  - OPC: 24 May to 26 August 2022: 731 contributions
  - Targeted surveys and interviews: 7 April to 17 June and 18 July to 10 October 2022
  - Baseline data reported by 30 June 2022 ⇒ under validation by EUROSTAT
- **Next steps:**
  - Legislative proposal (part of the 2023 revision of Waste Directive) expected in Q2 2023

# Revision of Food Contact Materials legislation to improve food safety, ensure citizens' health and reduce the environmental footprint of the sector

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Revision of EU FCM legislation to address issues identified in the Evaluation: prioritization of substances, safety of final material, support sustainable FCMs including recycling and reuse, improve information and compliance along the supply chain.
- Coherence with other EU initiatives: Farm-to-Fork, Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, Circular Economy Action Plan, Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, etc.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Evaluation published 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 [https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/revision-eu-rules/evaluation-eu-rules\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/chemical-safety/food-contact-materials/revision-eu-rules/evaluation-eu-rules_en)
- Public consultation launched 6<sup>th</sup> October. Open until 11 January 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12497-Revision-of-EU-rules-on-food-contact-materials\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12497-Revision-of-EU-rules-on-food-contact-materials_en)

- **Next steps:**

- Working on impact assessment and development of policy options 2023-2024, including studies supporting the IA and targeted stakeholder consultation.

# Revision of the animal welfare legislation to broaden its scope and ensure a higher level of animal welfare

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Ensure a higher level of animal welfare by aligning the current rules with the latest scientific evidence, broadening their scope and making them easier to enforce, as well as to contribute to the achievement of a more sustainable food system

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Literature review and field study
- Public Consultation : 15th October 2021 to 21st January 2022: ≈ 60 000 contributions. Factual summary report [published](#)
- Evaluation (“fitness check”) of the current legislation concluded in September 2022: results published on the DG SANTE [website](#) on 5 October 2022.

- **Next steps:**

- External studies to be finalised;
- Scientific advice provided by EFSA (on animal transport, pigs, poultry, calves and dairy cows);
- Adoption of legislative proposals in the second half of 2023.

# Revision of the feed additives legislation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The initiative intends to reform the Regulation on Feed Additives to address the current needs in sustainable farming, reduce undue burden and improve the functioning of the internal market for feed additives.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Internal work on evaluation and impact assessment

- **Next steps:**

- Finalisation of the impact assessment

# Revision of the EU promotion programme for agri-food products to enhance their contribution to sustainable production and consumption

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**
  - Review the EU agri-food promotion policy (Regulation EU 1144/2014) to enhance its contribution to sustainable agricultural production and consumption, in line with the shift to a more plant-based diet, with less red and processed meat and more fruit and vegetables.
  - Focus on how the EU can use promotion programmes to support the most sustainable, carbon-efficient methods of livestock production.
- **Where we are in the process:**
  - Inception impact assessment presented in February 2021
  - Public consultation: 31 March – 23 June 2021: over 7.000 responses
  - Proposal undergoing internal discussions.
- **Next steps:**
  - Adoption of Commission proposal to amend Regulation EU 1144/2014
  - Timing to be confirmed.

# Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers to support their position in the food chain and non-legislative initiatives to improve transparency

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

In **2021 the CAP Reform** brought several changes to strengthen the position of farmers in the food chain:

- Novel exclusion from competition rules (Article 210a CMO Regulation on Horizontal and vertical sustainability initiatives) allows operators to enter into sustainability-oriented agreements with the aim to attain a higher sustainability standards as mandated by law
- Possibility for sectoral programs in all sectors based on producer organisations
- Enhancement of inter-branch organisations' role and function ⇒ sustainability objectives
- Value-sharing possibility is expanded in the chain
- Extension of private supply management possibilities for PDO/PGIs to all agricultural sectors

- **Where we are in the process:**

- **“Forum on Best Practices in the agri-food supply chain”** launched On 2 December 2021- 2nd edition of the Forum on Best Practices: 10 November 2022.
- Two thematic groups:
  - Sustainability initiatives
  - Position of organic farmers in the food chain.
- Public consultation: 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 on guidelines for sustainability agreements: 14 responses
- Guidelines explaining the novel exclusion from competition rules: to be adopted before 8 December 2023

- **Next steps**

- Continue to work on market transparency, e.g. through the market observatories and the Agri-Food Data Portal



# Revision of EU marketing standards for agricultural products to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products

- **In a nutshell**

- Enhancing sustainability
- Ensuring modernisation and simplification of the standards
- Aligning 'old' marketing standards with the requirements of the Lisbon Treaty

- **Where we are in the process**

- Preparing legislative and non-legislative acts

- **Next steps**

- For non-legislative acts, discussion in Expert Groups and Committees, as appropriate
- Publication of Commission legislative proposals and non legislative acts (Q1/2023)

# Revision of EU marketing standards for fishery and aquaculture products to ensure the uptake and supply of sustainable products

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The objective is to create more transparency for operators and consumers on fishery-specific sustainability aspects of a given product. As a result, consumers can make better informed purchasing decisions. Operators will have an opportunity to leverage their sustainability performance or an incentive to improve it.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Key sustainability criteria have been identified: report in progress. Significant progress on indicators that can be graded on the basis of scientifically robust methodologies.
- Envisaging to integrate these fisheries-specific criteria in the horizontal FSFS sustainability labelling instead of a seafood-only approach through marketing standards.

- **Next steps:**

- Ensure that this integration is feasible and compatible with the overall design of the FSFS.

# Setting up of Farm sustainability Data Network to contribute a wide uptake of sustainable farming practices

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

The conversion of FADN to FSDN has the following objectives

- improve policy analysis on environmental and social variables that will be introduced in the data collection network
- to give feedback and advice to farmers with the aim to improve sustainability
- modernize the data collection network through improved data sharing

- **Where we are in the process:**

- The Commission proposal on the basic Regulation 1217/2009 was adopted on 22 June 2022
- Discussion on the proposal with Council, Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee
- In parallel, discussion on the secondary legislation is ongoing. This is related to detailed provisions on variables, data sharing, data protection etc.)

- **Next steps:**

- Take stock of the results of a study that will analyze in detail environmental and social topics and variables to assist decisions on the legal basis.

# Revision of the EU school scheme

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- The EU school scheme supports the distribution of milk, fruit & vegetables to millions of children, from nursery to secondary school, across the EU. It is applicable since 2017 and the Commission has now launched a review of this scheme as part of the [Farm to Fork strategy](#).
- The review (planned: Q4 2023) will, in particular, strengthen the educational dimension of the EU school scheme, enhance the focus on healthy diets, sustainable food production and reduction of food waste

- **Where we are in the process:**

- [Inception impact assessment](#) published for stakeholders' feedback from **29 June to 27 July 2021**
- **Public consultation** from **5 May to 28 July 2022**: more than **7000** contributions, available with factual summary [here](#)
- **External evaluation support studies**
  - Main study to be published by Q4 2022
  - Ongoing complementary study focusing on health/sustainability to be finalised by Q1 2023
  - Forthcoming synthesis of public consultation activities and Member States' evaluation reports to be finalised by Q2 2023

- **Next steps:**

- **Public conference** in Brussels on **24 November 2022**

# EU Carbon farming

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Carbon farming = green business model that rewards land managers for taking up improved land management practices,
  - resulting in the increase of carbon storage in living biomass, dead organic matter and soils,
  - by enhancing carbon capture and/or reducing the release of carbon to the atmosphere,
  - in respect of ecological principles favorable to biodiversity and the natural capital overall.

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Initiative launched through the Communication “Sustainable Carbon Cycles” (COM(2021) 800 final of 15 December 2021)

- **Next steps:**

- By end of November 2022: legislative proposal for a framework for the certification of carbon removals.
- Development of tailored certification methodologies for different carbon removal activities:
  - based on the certification framework
  - supported by a new expert group (to be launched end of 2022).

# Clarification of EU competition rules with regard to sustainability agreements (HBER review)

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**
  - Provide guidance to companies on how to assess agreements between competitors pursuing sustainability objectives under EU competition rules (Article 101 TFEU)
- **Where we are in the process:**
  - Public consultation on draft guidelines from 1 March until 26 April 2022: [2022 hbers \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/default.aspx?id=14484):
  - Assessment of stakeholder feedback
- **Next steps:**
  - Finalise text of the guidelines
  - Adoption Q2 2023

# Clarification of EU competition rules with regard to sustainability agreements (guidance on exclusion in the sphere of agriculture)

- **The initiative in a nutshell:**

- Provide guidance to stakeholders on how to interpret the provisions of Art. 210a of the CMO Regulation providing for an exclusion from the scope of application of Art. 101(1) TFEU for certain sustainability agreements in agriculture

- **Where we are in the process:**

- Drafting guidelines

- **Next steps:**

- Public consultation in the period February 2023 – May 2023
- Adoption Q3 2023

# Thank you



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