



Working together to tackle food waste in the EU: update on key initiatives

Chantal Bruetschy

European Commission, DG Health and Food Safety
Head of Unit, Innovation and sustainability



Fighting Food Waste: key challenges for the Commission

Ensure that:

- prevention of food waste does not jeopardise food safety
- all actors are involved, from farm to fork
- EU action complements/adds value to Member State initiatives
- learning and best practice is shared effectively, including international experience



Fight Food Waste: no impact on safety of the food chain

- Measure and monitor progress in reducing food waste
- Facilitate food donations
- Optimise use of resources in the food and feed chain
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking
- Raise awareness and engagement
<http://ec.europa.eu/stop food waste>

Food Waste Reduction: Regulatory initiatives

- **Communication on the Circular Economy /proposal to review waste targets** COM(2014)387final – 2 July 2014
- Calls on Member States to develop **national food waste prevention strategies**
- **Non-binding target: 30% reduction by 2025**
 - Sectors: manufacturing, retail/distribution, food service/hospitality and households (*excluding agricultural production for purpose of target setting*)
- **Food waste definition**: for setting objectives/monitoring
 - "*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



Food Waste: definitions & measurement

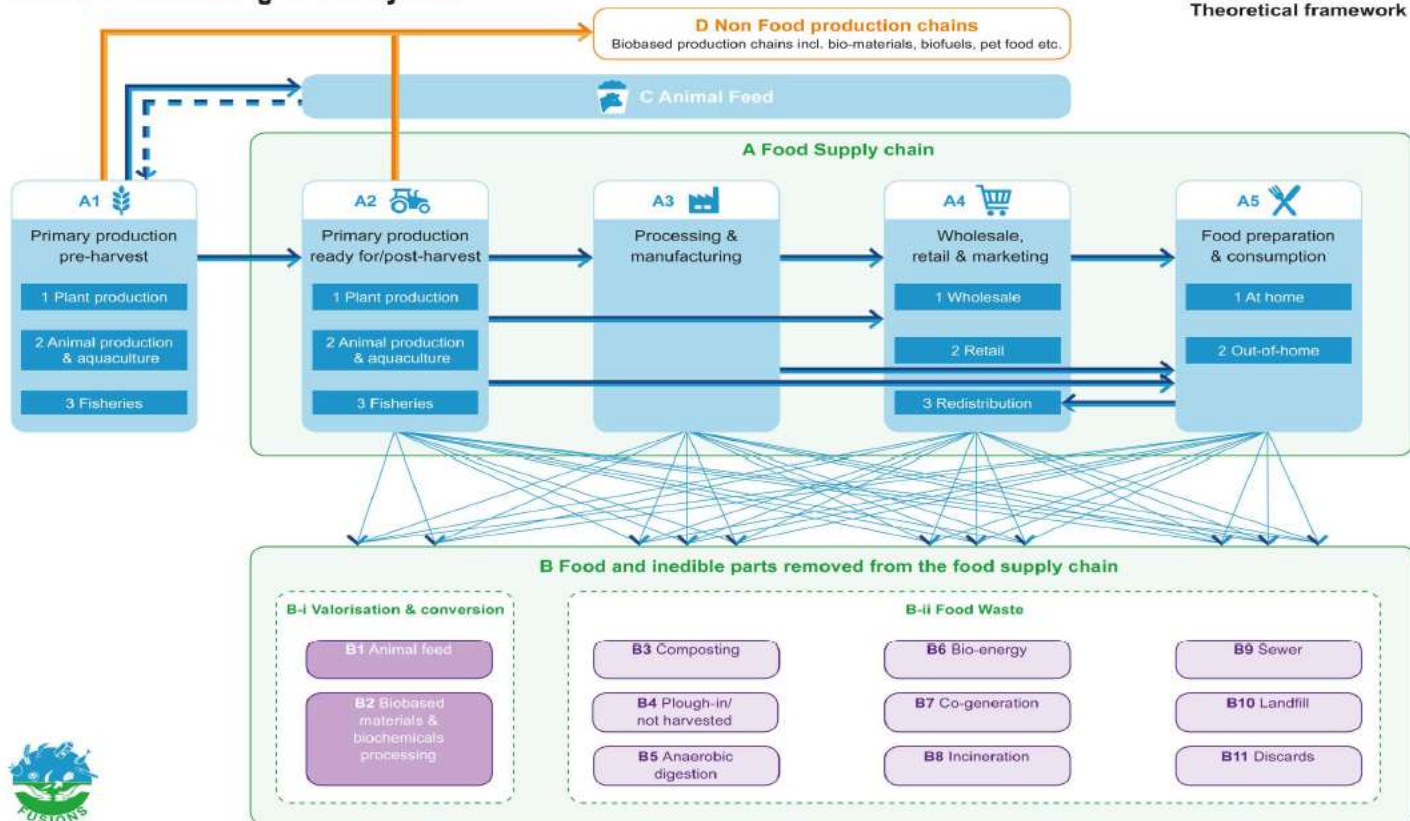
- Need for common definition to help inform food waste discussions, action and policy making (*FUSIONS, July 2014*)
- Need to define common framework for measuring/quantifying food waste, data collection, analysis and reporting
- Clarify resource flows in the food system
- Support effective implementation of food waste/"food use" hierarchy

⇒ Supported by EU-funded FUSIONS project

www.eu-fusions.org

FUSIONS framework for defining food waste

Resource flows in Agri-Food System



Facilitate food donations

- Simplify – without compromising food safety – rules which apply when retailers provide food to food banks (*in progress*)
- Consider opportunity for EU-wide food donation guidelines for food donors and food banks eg:
 - Roles & responsibilities (food safety, hygiene, traceability...)
 - VAT regime and food donations...
- ⇒ Ad-hoc meeting with stakeholders (28.10.2014) confirms value of guidelines/initial scoping of content
- ⇒ Outcomes of EESC study will inform process
- ⇒ New section on Commission website –food donation guidelines in Member States (*your contributions are welcome!*)

Date marking

- Consider opportunities to simplify date labelling rules:
 - Possible extension of list of products exempt from date marking ("best before" date)?
 - Consider terminology issues (eg "best before")
 - ⇒ Pursue discussions with Member States and stakeholders
- Pursue dialogue with industry regarding:
 - Consistency of practices regarding date marking?
 - Potential to reduce food waste by maximising shelf-life?
- Assess/address information needs (consumers and other actors)

Awareness raising, information and communications



What can I do in
my daily life to limit
food waste?

- Need for further EU-wide communications support on food waste?
 - What topics, channels, tools?
- ⇒ Pursue dialogue with interested stakeholders and with Member States

EU support: social innovation for food waste prevention



"An app that helps you buy good food at the best price"

EU initiatives:

- FUSIONS WP on social innovation; FORWARD (*published*)
- Future Internet Public Private Partnership (FI PPP) – open calls ...

Commission *Food Waste* website: sharing good practices

Good practices

A wide range of initiatives on food waste reduction is launched at national, regional and local level. This compilation aims to facilitate the exchange of good practices. Have a look and be inspired !

[Research, innovations](#)

[Awareness, information
and education](#)

[Policy, awards, self-
imposed certification](#)

[Food redistribution](#)

Keep us informed!