



20 March 2017

Mandate of sub-group established under the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to support EU activities to facilitate food donation

1. Background

As provided for in the Terms of Reference of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW) 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, it was agreed that a subgroup would be established in order to support the Commission's work in relation to food donation, as laid down in the Circular Economy Action Plan.

2. Objectives

The sub-group on food donation will support the Commission's work by contributing to:

- 1) the preparation of EU food donation guidelines for donors and receivers of food surplus;
- 2) identification of practices, guidelines and rules existing in Member States in relation to food donation for sharing with Platform members;
- 3) the further definition of a Pilot Project, to be launched in 2017, to support food redistribution in the EU which aims to further research practices in the Member States and support dissemination of the future EU guidelines at national level.

3. Principal tasks:

3.1. EU food donation guidelines: provide input and comments to support the preparation of EU guidance based on the working document presented to the Platform at its meeting of 29.11.2016¹.

3.2. Information sharing on food donation activities in Member States: provide information and input on national/sectorial guidelines, recent studies and reports on food redistribution activities in view of their sharing with Platform members and publication on the "resource library" section² of the Commission's food waste website.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fw_eu-platform_20161129_pres-eu-food-donation-guidelines.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/library_en

3.3. Pilot project on food redistribution: contribute to further scoping of the project and possible involvement of sub-group members in the project's dissemination activities at national level, where appropriate.

4. Invited participants:

Based on feedback received from members of the Platform on FLW as well as previous contributions provided to the Commission by member organisations to support its work on food donation, the Commission invites the following Platform members to participate in the work of the sub-group on food donations:

- Public entities:

Member States (14): BE, BG, DK, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, RO and SI

Other public entities: Norway (observer)

- Private sector organisations (11): City of Milan, EuroCommerce, European Food Banks Federation (FEBA), FoodCloud, FoodDrinkEurope (FDE), FoodServiceEurope, HOTREC Hospitality Europe, Hungarian Food Bank Association (HFBA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), Independent Retail Europe and Les Restaurants du Coeur.
- Observer: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

5. Overall timeline and working procedures:

The sub-group on food donations will support the Platform's work in this area for the duration of its mandate (ie until end 2019).

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

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

The duration of the mandate of the sub-group may be reviewed following adoption, by the Commission, of the EU guidelines on food donation, forecast for end 2017.