

# The Farm to Fork Strategy

**Reducing food loss and waste:  
EU action plan**



## EU Circular Economy Action Plan (2015) – food waste prevention: What have we achieved?

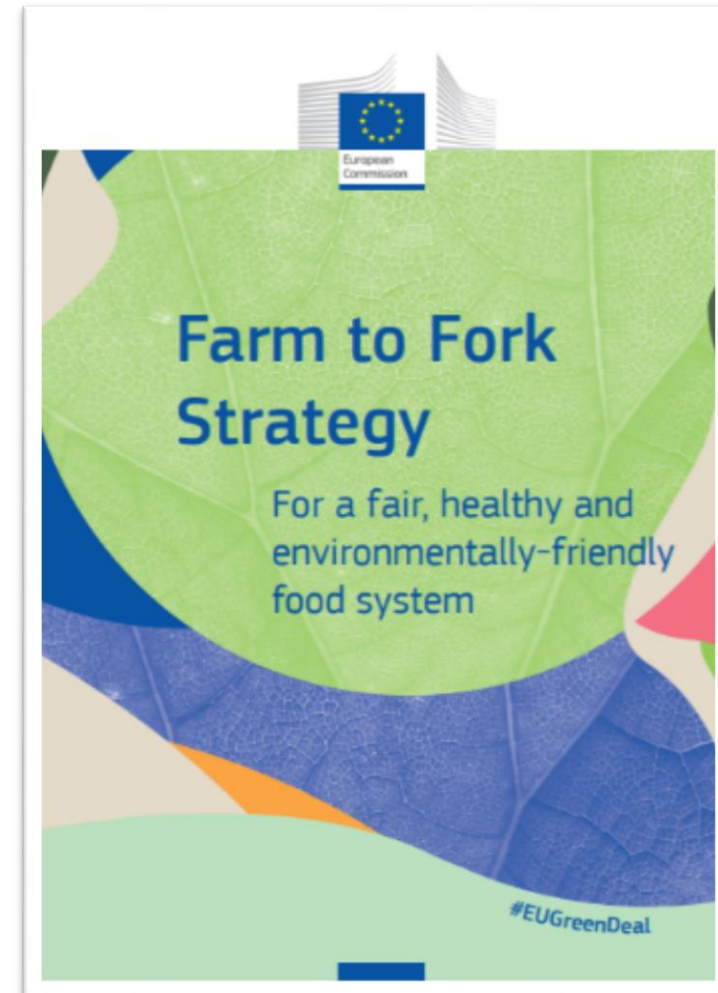


- EU Platform on food waste prevention
  - EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW)
  - Recommendations for action in food waste prevention
- Measure and monitor food waste
  - EU food waste measurement methodology
  - MS obligations to reduce food waste
- Facilitate food donation
  - EU food donation guidelines
  - EU pilot project on food redistribution
- Optimise safe use of food in feed
  - EU guidelines on feed use of food no longer intended for human consumption
- Promote better understanding and use of date marking (in progress)



## Next steps - Farm to Fork Strategy: Stepping up action against food loss and waste (I)

- **EU-level targets** for food waste reduction (proposal by 2023)
- Revise EU rules for **date marking** (proposal by 2022)
- Investigate **food losses** at production stage and explore ways of preventing them



## Next steps. Farm to Fork Strategy: Stepping up action against food loss and waste (II)



### **Scale up action and mobilise key players** across the EU

- Promote uptake of EU Platform's recommendations for action and implementation of food waste prevention hierarchy (including facilitating food donation)
- Further integrate food loss & waste prevention as part of all relevant EU policies
- Strengthen evidence-base for food waste prevention and share best practice through the EU Platform on FLW
- Support actors in taking action to fight food waste (e.g. Horizon Europe, grants through Single Market Programme)



# | Food loss and waste measurement

## **Food Waste**

- EU data collection and validation will be conducted by Eurostat
- Comparison with plug-in and data from waste statistics should help in ensuring data quality
- Questionnaire and reporting manual will be sent to Member States in coming weeks

## **Food Loss**

- Food loss measurement is intended to be addressed as part of research and innovation activity
- **Work in Progress!**



# | Promote better understanding and use of date marking

- Revision of **EU date marking rules** taking into account:
  - **Scientific advice from EFSA** to inform decision-making by food business operators on date marking, setting product shelf-life and defining other relevant information for food labelling (i.e. risk-based approach focused on food safety)
    - October 2020: advice on factors to guide choice between “use by” and “best before” dates
    - March 2021: other labelling aspects
  - **Consumer research findings:** further investigate how consumers themselves understand and use these dates. Identify possible options to increase their effectiveness in avoiding food waste (e.g. changes in terminology and/or format; presence/absence of “best before” date on food discarding behaviour...)
  - **Timing:** proposal by Q4 2022, following impact assessment/public consultation



# Recent initiatives on food hygiene in view of food donations

- Draft Regulation amending Regulation amending the Annexes to **Regulation (EC) No 852/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs as regards food allergen management, **redistribution of food** and food safety culture
- Draft Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to **Regulation (EC) No 853/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (**freezing at retail**)
- **Commission Notice** providing guidance on food safety management systems for food **retail** activities, including **food donations** [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2020.199.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2020:199:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.199.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2020:199:T<u>OC</u>)



# Redistribution of food (amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004)

- Part of the Farm to Fork Strategy which will also contribute to achieving a circular economy
- Purpose: Redistribution of food surplus for human consumption, in particular through food donations, where safe to do so, ensure the highest value use of edible food resources, while preventing food waste
- Based on the 2018 second EFSA scientific opinion on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments and food donations. The opinion highlights that food donations presents several new food safety challenges at retail level and therefore recommends several additional general hygiene requirements



**New Chapter Va in Annex II: Redistribution of food**





# Redistribution of food for the purpose of food donations (at any stage)

Food business operators may redistribute food for the purpose of food donation subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Food business operators shall routinely check the safety and suitability of food under their responsibility if food under their responsibility is not injurious to health and fit for human consumption. If not the case, food business operators may redistribute food:
  - with a ‘use by’ date, before the expiry of that date;
  - with a “best before” date, up to and after that date, or,
  - without any date of minimum durability, at any time provided.



# Redistribution of food for the purpose of food donations

(2) Food business operators handling food referred to in point (1), shall assess if food is not injurious to health and fit for human consumption by taking at least into account at least the following:

- the date of minimum durability or the 'use by' date, ensuring sufficient remaining shelf-life left to allow for the safe redistribution and use by the final consumer
- the integrity of the packaging, when applicable
- the proper storage and transport conditions, including applicable temperature requirements
- the date of freezing when applicable
- the organoleptic conditions
- the assurance of traceability



# Freezing of products of animal origin (amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004)

- Part of the Farm to Fork Strategy which will also contribute to achieving a circular economy
- Purpose: Increasing/facilitating the means of ensuring the safe redistribution by food banks and other charities by the freezing of meat at retail level under certain conditions.
- Based on the 2018 second EFSA scientific opinion on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments and food donations. The opinion highlights that food donations presents several new food safety challenges at retail level and therefore recommends several additional general hygiene requirements, including freezing for redistribution

→ Derogation at retail from freezing « without undue delay » of fresh meat after slaughter



# | Freezing of products of animal origin

- Only at retail and for the purpose of food donations
- in case of meat for which a 'use by' date is, before the expiry of that date
- without undue delay to a temperature of  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower
- ensuring that the date of freezing is documented and provided either on the label or by other means
- in accordance with any condition laid down by the competent authorities for freezing and further use as food



# Commission Notice providing guidance on food safety management systems for food retail activities, including food donations

- Based on the 2017 and the 2018 EFSA scientific opinions on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments (and food donations)
- Recommendations were revised by risk managers (food hygiene group) and combined into a single Commission Notice
- Much broader than food donations: intended to provide guidance on good hygiene practices at any retail activity. Promotion of simplification of HACCP procedures for small businesses
- Provides guidance how to implement the upcoming requirements on food donations in the Regulations (EC) 852/2004 and 853/2004



# Timing

Redistribution of food  
for food donations:

4th quarter 2020

After a public  
consultation and  
notification to the  
World Trade  
Organisation

Freezing of meat at  
retail

4th quarter 2020

After a public  
consultation and  
notification to the  
World Trade  
Organisation

Commission Notice

Published on 12 June  
2020

OJ C 199



# | Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU

- Promote **sharing of evidence-based best practice** through EU Platform on FLW
  - Building on the Joint Research Centre's exercise to assess effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives and REFRESH guidance on evaluating household food waste, refine common evaluation framework.
  - Repeat exercise (2021) in view of identifying initiatives with greatest impact on food waste prevention.
- Create an online ***EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub*** (including MS-specific policy section)
- Broaden outreach: monthly newsletter of EU Platform on FLW; consider launch of *EU Food Loss and Waste Fighters Programme*



# | EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub

“One-stop shop” for stakeholders active in food loss and waste prevention, with:

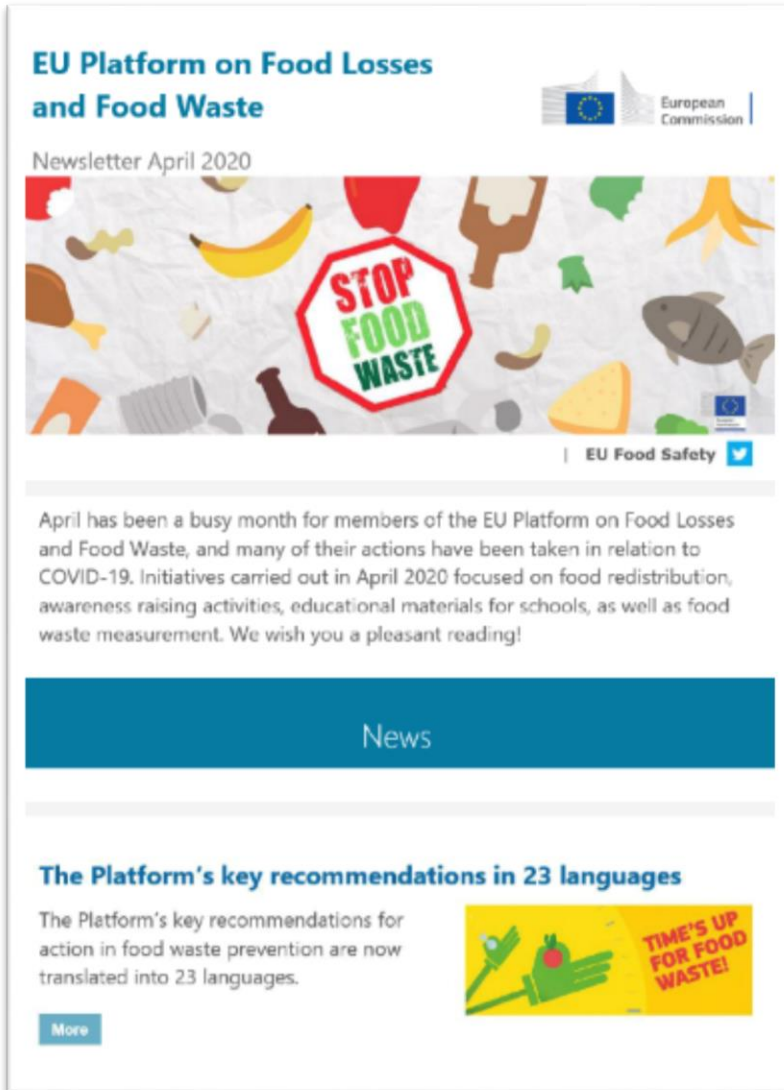
- **Database of resources** (food loss and waste prevention initiatives, calculator of food waste prevention impacts and other tools) – building on the work of the REFRESH Community of Experts website
- **Dedicated pages for Member States’ policies/legislation relevant to food loss and waste prevention**
- **Event calendar, news**

Implementation: aim to launch the website gradually, starting with the database of resources by the end of 2020.





# | The Platform newsletter



- Launched in March 2020, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Offers an overview of food loss and waste prevention initiatives taken by the members of the EU Platform
- Aims: to help Platform members stay connected, to inform all interested stakeholders about Platform members' activities and inspire further action in food loss and waste prevention.
- Subscription link on Commission's food waste website



# | Support actions: R&I – European Green Deal call

- Work programme 2020 update – publication September 2020
- Farm to Fork thematic area, 1 draft topic under development:

## **Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations for sustainable food from farm to fork**

- Proposed scope: Projects shall test, pilot and demonstrate innovative systemic solutions (TRL 5-8) to one of five urgent and pressing food systems' challenges, including **Reducing food losses and waste, while avoiding unsustainable packaging**
- Stakeholder consultation has been held (19 May-3 June)
- Draft topic text available on website: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/european-green-deal/call/farm-fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/european-green-deal/call/farm-fork_en)



# | Support actions: R&I – Horizon Europe

- **Work in progress !**
- Orientations towards Horizon Europe Strategic plan
- Cluster 6 – Food waste and losses covered in several **intervention areas**
  - Food systems; Bio-based Innovation Systems; Circular Systems
- Potential European Partnerships
  - European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
  - Circular bio-based Europe: sustainable innovation for new local value from waste and biomass



# | Support actions: Single Market Programme

- Aimed to help implement food waste prevention actions (incl. FW measurement).
- Form: Grants and calls for proposals
- Addressed to: a) Member States and b) Civil Society Stakeholders
- Expected start: 2021
- **Work in progress !**



# | Future meetings

- Food waste measurement
  - Webinar – June (date *tbc*); further webinars and possible sub-group meeting in autumn
- Joint meeting of Action & Implementation and Food donation sub-group
  - Discuss implementation and follow-up of Platform recommendations and further outreach opportunities (September)
- Plenary meeting: November/December (date *tbc*)



# Thank you



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