



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food safety, sustainability and innovation

General Food Law, Food Waste, and Food Information to Consumers

SUMMARY REPORT

17th MEETING OF THE EU PLATFORM ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE

DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (SANTE)

Hybrid - in Brussels and on-line via Interactio

11 June 2025

Chair: Mr Klaus Berend, Director Food Safety, Sustainability and Innovation, DG SANTE

European Commission and EU bodies (7): DG SANTE, RTD, JRC, ENV, ESTAT, European Environment Agency (EEA), European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)

Member States represented (21): AT, BE, BG, HR, CZ, DK, DE, EE, FR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, ES

Private sector organisations (26): BOROUME, Consorzio Bestack, COPA COGECA (The European Voice of Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives), ECSLA (European Cold Storage and Logistics Association), EuroCommerce (European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sectors), EDA (European Dairy Association aisbl), EUPPA (European Potato Processors' Association), FEBA (European Food Banks Federation), FoodCloud, FoodDrinkEurope (European organisation representing food and drinks manufacturers), EUCOFEL (European Fruit and Vegetables Trade Association), Azti Foundation, Harokopio University, HFBA (Hungarian Food Bank Association), HOTREC (Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe), MATVETT-NORSUS-NOFIMA CONSORTIUM, RÉGAL Normandie, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, Stop Wasting Food Movement Denmark, Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei, Too Good To Go, Venturis Horeca, WUR (Wageningen University & Research), WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Program), WRAP EU, WUWM (World Union of Wholesale Markets).

Other public organisations (3): OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), EESC (The European Economic and Social Committee), CoR (The European Committee of the Regions)

Observers (1): NO

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed participants, presented the agenda, which was adopted following addition of an AOB point requested by NO, and informed about important recent developments:

- The new Commission began its term in December 2024, with Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi responsible for the Health and Animal Welfare portfolio. His mandate also includes food waste prevention.
- The Commission published on 19 February 2025 its Vision for Agriculture and Food, which reaffirms the commitment to reducing food loss and waste.
- A provisional agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission proposal of a targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive that, when adopted, will set legally binding food waste reduction targets for Member States.
- In May 2025, the Commission published findings from a consumer segmentation study on food waste and date marking, identifying three consumer profiles and suggesting targeted actions.

2. Update on the EU food waste reduction targets and discussion with members (PDF)

The Commission informed that the adoption of the amended Waste Framework Directive by the Council was expected at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 23 June 2025, followed by a vote in the European Parliament on 8 September 2025¹. The Directive will enter into force 20 days after publication, and Member States will be given 20 months for transposition into national legislation. Member States shall evaluate and adapt their food waste prevention programmes within two years of the Directive's entry into force, and they must designate competent authorities responsible for the coordination of food waste prevention measures within three months of the Directive's entry into force. By end 2027, the Commission will publish reports on the prospect of Member States' likelihood of meeting the targets. Drafts of these reports will be prepared by the European Environment Agency, using a methodology that will be developed in consultation with EIONET members².

WUR asked when the quality check reports on food waste data, submitted to Eurostat by each Member State would be shared. **The Commission** replied that with the revision of the Directive, Member States will be obliged to make the quality check reports publicly available.

HFBA asked whether the 2027 review would include the possibility for Member States to distinguish between edible and inedible parts of food waste, particularly in household food waste. **The Commission** replied that the 2027 the review will include a comprehensive assessment of the targets and it could also consider this issue, depending on the availability of relevant data. In this context, the Commission encouraged Member States to submit, if available, their data on edible parts of food waste.

3. Discussion on how the EU Platform can support Member States in reaching the targets (PDF)

The Commission outlined the main tasks in the EU Platform's second mandate (which will expire in 2026) and presented the measures that Member States would need to implement in their food waste prevention programmes, following the adoption of the amended Waste Framework Directive. After an overview of how the EU's work carried out so far can facilitate the implementation of new measures, the Chair opened the floor for a discussion on how the EU Platform can support Member States further. Below is an overview of feedback from members:

¹ According to the initial calendar, the date was set for 8 October.

² The European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) is a partnership network of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its 38 member and cooperating countries. EEA and Eionet gather and develop data, knowledge, and advice to policy makers about Europe's environment. Further info can be found [here](#).

- **HFBA** highlighted several possible measures to strengthen food donation: further developing the EU Food donation guidelines with clear examples and explanation of flexibility in practice (e.g. clarifying that meat can be frozen at retail level by using blast chillers or regular freezers for the purpose of donation; clarifying labelling requirements for non-packaged products etc.); financing of infrastructure and logistics for food redistribution; exploring how the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Market Organisation can be better used to redistribute surplus food from primary producers (an idea also backed by **RÉGAL Normandie**). **The Commission** acknowledged the need to strengthen food donation but cautioned that there are limits as to how far such flexibility can be outlined in EU guidelines, given that guidelines are non-binding documents which intend to support the implementation of relevant EU legislation but have to respect the boundaries set therein.
- **WUR** and a representative from the **Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food** proposed that the Platform should facilitate the sharing of information on national food waste legislation and their evaluation of impacts, and explore national, regional and local networks of stakeholders working on food loss and waste prevention (e.g. Nordic Council food waste network). **WUR** also encouraged Member States to designate national competent authorities to apply for the Single Market Programme action grants.
- **WUR** and **RÉGAL Normandie** highlighted the added value of organising smaller, practitioner-focused workshops as well as Platform field visits across the EU, linked to important events or the rotating Presidencies of the Council of the EU.
- A representative from the **Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food** suggested that the Platform could follow and contribute to the work on the ISO standard for food waste.
- **WRAP EU** suggested to strengthen the knowledge exchange between the Platform and EU-funded projects, to identify gaps, streamline efforts, and learn from one another.
- **WRAP EU** and **RÉGAL Normandie** requested to reinforce the link between food waste reduction goals and those to achieve sustainable food production and consumption (better nutrition, healthy diets, environmental goals).
- **RÉGAL Normandie** emphasised that the Platform could support the development of practical and ready to use resources, like the toolkit to reduce consumer food waste created by the European Consumer Food Waste Forum.
- **HOTREC** emphasised the need for tailored approaches in the heterogeneous food services and hospitality sector, especially for small businesses. **HOTREC** also suggested a greater engagement of the Platform with chefs, hospitality students, trainers, and innovators (start-ups) developing targeted solutions to better address the food waste challenges of the industry.
- **WRAP** suggested that the Platform could facilitate the collection of high-quality food waste data to support Member States in evaluating the effectiveness of their national legislation and programmes, but also for evidence-based decision-making. **The Commission** emphasised that the Platform serves as a space for exchanging information and best practices but cannot compel Member States or private sector organisations to share their data.
- The **Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, COPA, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB, and RÉGAL Normandie** asked for the Platform to formulate recommendations for circular solutions to valorise surplus food, in line with the food use and waste hierarchy (e.g. transformation of food-based materials into value-added products for food and non-food purposes). **RISE Research Institutes of Sweden** explained that primary producers and food businesses often lack the knowledge, logistics and technical capacity to explore such circular solutions, due to often high initial costs for trials and prototyping.
- **COPA** proposed that the Platform could support Member States and the food manufacturing sector by developing guidance on the definitions of food waste and by-products, with practical examples. The determination of whether a material from food processing qualifies as waste

or as a by-product often falls under the jurisdiction of local authorities, which can lead to diverse interpretations and affect the collection of consistent food waste data. The **Commission** referred to the work of the Action & Implementation Subgroup to explore circular solutions, such as valorising side streams and surplus food, and committed to continuing this work. The Commission acknowledged the diversity of such solutions and materials with valorisation potential and highlighted the difficulty of creating common guidelines that could cover these. The Commission reiterated that the long-standing issue of classifying materials as waste or by-products largely remains under the responsibility of Member States.

- **STOP WASTING FOOD DK** requested that the Platform holds all meetings virtually to reduce travel related emissions. The **Commission** explained that during the re-establishment of the Platform in 2022, most members requested a mix of in-person and virtual meetings, to still allow for face-to-face interactions and the organisation of smaller workshops where members could work together in person.

4. Perspectives of Member States, presentations and discussion with members

A representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture of Czechia** ([PDF](#)) presented recent food waste data as well as the national policy and legislative framework for food waste prevention. The Czech legislation requires large food retailers over 400 m² to donate surplus food to nonprofit organisations. National authorities offer grants to support food redistribution activities and have clarified the legal framework for donating cooked foods. Research highlighted the causes of consumer food waste in Czechia, such as over-purchasing, improper storage, aesthetic standards and poor meal planning.

A representative from the **Swedish Food Agency** ([PDF](#)) outlined the national action plan to reduce food waste, which involves coordination among multiple ministries and agencies. The plan includes four goals and ten measures, primarily aimed at public authorities. Detailed measurements of food waste are carried out in public canteens and through household surveys, which distinguish between the edible and inedible fractions of food waste. Consumer surveys indicate a growing awareness and improvement in food management practices among the population. Annual campaigns and sustained media coverage contribute to maintaining public attention on the issue.

WRAP asked whether public authorities also considered improving the taste of school meals, rather than adjusting portion sizes to ensure children eat enough food. The representative from the **Swedish Food Agency** replied that there is a dedicated government assignment focused on school meals, which are offered free of charge, highlighting the challenge of providing more sustainable food, such as shifting from daily meat servings to more plant-based options. This transition can initially lead to increased food waste, because some children may not like the new meal options.

EuroCommerce asked about the methods of measurement of food waste that goes down the drain and inquired about the ways in which Swedish consumers became better informed of how long to refrigerate cooked food. The representative from the **Swedish Food Agency** explained that the measurement of food waste going down the drain is based on self-reported questionnaires, where participants estimate the amount in cups, while also acknowledging the limitations of this method due to possible underreporting. The change in consumer behaviour may be due to annual campaigns focusing on educating people about managing leftover food, emphasising that leftovers can be safely consumed within a few days.

A representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain** ([PDF](#)) presented the new Spanish law aimed at preventing food loss and avoidable food waste, which is a cornerstone of the country's broader national food strategy. The law applies across the entire food chain and focuses on prevention, raising awareness, and promoting education and knowledge among all actors in the food chain. It introduces compulsory prevention plans for food businesses of a certain size, measures to support food donation and the obligation for restaurants to provide takeaway solutions

for leftovers. Public authorities, including regional and local governments, are expected to play an active role and include food waste reduction measures in public procurement. The law also includes a sanctions regime for non-compliance.

EuroCommerce asked whether Spain's new law makes food donation mandatory, including a quota for 'ugly' produce, and whether all companies—especially SMEs—must draft food waste prevention plans, or only those above a certain size. The representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain** clarified that there are flexibilities for food businesses and objective criteria for mandatory actions depending on the size of food business operators and their capacity. If food donation is not possible, this should be clearly explained in the operator's food waste prevention plan. There is no mandatory quota to donate 'ugly' produce.

RÉGAL Normandie inquired about the obligation of putting in place food waste prevention plans by companies and the public authorities overseeing their implementation. The representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain** replied that prevention plans are mandatory for all businesses, with the exception of micro-enterprises. Companies are expected to adapt plans to their reality through self-assessment, with sector-specific guidance being developed to support implementation.

5. Updates from the European Environmental Agency (EEA) (PDF)

A representative from the **EEA** shared findings from its 2025 waste prevention report, which evaluated EU Member States' food waste prevention policies. Despite growing momentum, food loss and waste prevention policies often remain disconnected from climate and biodiversity strategies. Data collection is improving, but the evaluation at Member State level of national programmes and strategies is still limited and inconsistent. Most countries focus on 'soft' policy measures (education and raising awareness), while regulatory and market-based tools are rarely used. An early warning methodology is now being developed as a basis to identify countries at risk of not reaching the future food waste reduction targets, in order for the Commission to provide tailored recommendations to Member States to step up efforts.

6. Findings from the EU consumer segmentation study on food waste prevention and date marking, presentation by Open Evidence and discussion with members (PDF)

Open Evidence presented the findings of the consumer segmentation study carried out between June 2024 and March 2025. The study considered consumer behaviours concerning food waste in general and in relation to date marking. The final report includes a literature review of similar studies, and an analysis of survey replies from over 25 000 consumers from all EU countries on how they manage food daily (surveys were carried out in 2022). Considering the motivation and attitudes of consumers regarding food management, food waste and date marking, the study identified three consumer types: aware, pragmatic, and unconcerned food wasters. Across all groups, understanding of the meaning of date marking labelling was low. The report recommends tailored interventions for each consumer type and produced fact sheets and animations translated into all EU languages to support communication activities (all materials are available [here](#)).

WUR asked whether the 2022 data still reflects today's food waste behaviours given changes since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to use the consumer segments in campaigns, especially paid media, to effectively target and reach these consumer groups. **Open Evidence** noted that the study's findings align with similar research, showing consistent consumer patterns: for example, aware individuals are concerned about environmental impacts, but sometimes lack the skills to reduce food waste; pragmatic consumers are motivated mainly by cost savings etc. Regarding the second question, Open Evidence suggested tailoring interventions to different consumer types by adapting messages and delivery methods — such as using social media to reach younger, less aware audiences — so that campaigns better address the diverse reasons behind food waste behaviours.

EuroCommerce inquired why the 'aware' consumer segment is predominantly composed of older women, who are typically perceived as less engaged with sustainability and social issues, rather than younger generations. Additionally, EuroCommerce questioned the finding that consumers in Southern European countries demonstrate higher levels of awareness compared to those in Northern countries. **Open Evidence** replied that the literature on how sociodemographic factors relate to food waste shows mixed results—some studies align with their one, finding older women more aware. While younger generations might be expected to be more sensitive to food waste, the data does not clearly support that. Regarding the higher awareness in Southern Europe, Open Evidence ran country-specific models but did not find strong differences or clear explanations for these patterns. The findings are just average prevalence estimates, and the reasons behind differences between countries remain unclear.

7. Update on Subgroups' work and deliverables, presentations by co-chairs and discussion with members (PDF)

The co-chairs of the different Platform Sub-groups offered an overview of their respective work in 2025:

- **The Food Loss and Waste Monitoring Subgroup** focused on improving data collection, particularly at household level, and discussed the need for better monitoring of food loss and waste in fisheries.
- **The Action & Implementation Subgroup** looked at the role of packaging — especially active packaging — in reducing food waste, and highlighted city-level initiatives contributing to national reduction targets.
- **The Consumer Food Waste Prevention Subgroup** enhanced peer learning through a dedicated workshop to help Member States strengthen their national approaches to reduce household food waste, focusing on intervention design, stakeholder engagement, long-term impact, and monitoring challenges.
- **The Food Donation Subgroup** convened a meeting to address barriers of regulatory nature to food redistribution. The Subgroup is working on formulating key recommendations to improve food redistribution across the EU to be part of a Platform deliverable due by 2026.

8. Single Market Programme action grants to reduce food waste: successful projects and other updates, presentation by DG SANTE (PDF), project beneficiaries and discussion with members

The **Commission** presented an overview of the Single Market Programme (SMP) grants supporting food waste reduction actions. In 2024, seven grants worth around €1 million were awarded to Member States (out of a total budget of €2 million), and around 20 projects will receive funding through the stakeholder grants (for a total of €4 million). While the next call for proposals for stakeholder grants is planned for 2026, an invitation to apply for the Member States grants will be sent in October 2025 to the designated national competent authorities.

WUR asked for information about the projects that have been awarded grants to facilitate alignment and knowledge sharing. The **Commission** explained that 2024 grant agreements are still being signed, thus information on the projects is not yet available. However, results from earlier grants (starting in 2022) are publicly available via the [EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub](#). Information on the Single Market Programme calls for proposals can be found on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Next, Platform members learned about the results of two Single Market Programme projects carried out in the food services and hospitality sector:

- **The Food Rules project (PDF)** focused on reducing food waste in university and school canteens in Trentino, Italy. It measured waste in kitchens and on plates, aiming to cut surplus

food that could not be donated and raise awareness among diners. The project used an IT Platform to track waste and manage food donations to local food banks. The project successfully recovered 2.5 tons of food, saving significant CO₂ emissions and water.

- **The STOP WASTE project (PDF)** tackled food waste in hotels in Greece using the Stop Waste app, which simplifies measuring and tracking waste. Twelve hotels used the app in 2024, recording over 730 tons of waste, mostly from food preparation and guest plates. The hotels cut waste by 31% on average. The project also included staff training and guest awareness campaigns with multilingual materials. Guest surveys showed strong support for food waste reduction measures. **EuroCommerce** asked if the app could be used by hotels outside Greece, like in Italy or Spain. The **STOP WASTE project coordinator** confirmed that the app supports multiple languages and can work in other countries. The app is already active in places like Dubai and Luxembourg, showing potential for wider expansion.

9. Update on relevant European Commission policies and work

The **Commission (DG ENV)** provided an overview of the new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (**PDF**), published in January 2024, which aims to harmonise packaging rules across all Member States. The Regulation introduces packaging waste prevention targets alongside recycling targets, bans unnecessary packaging formats, and enhances enforcement mechanisms. The regulation covers aspects such as reuse targets, recyclability criteria, substance restrictions in packaging, and specific bans on single-use plastics for the sale of pre-packed unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables less than 1.5 kg. An expert group including Member States and industry stakeholders has been established to support implementation and gather feedback.

A representative from the **Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food** raised concerns about the ban on plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables less than 1.5 kg, noting that plastic packaging significantly reduces food waste — by up to 70%, in their experience. **DG ENV** responded that exceptions for delicate fruits like raspberries are in place and explained that guidelines will be drafted based on a scientific analysis by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The **Commission (DG RTD) (PDF)** updated Platform members about the Future Foods Partnership, an initiative launched in June 2024 to transform Europe's food systems. The partnership has received 275 pre-proposals for projects, with €40 million budgeted for its first call, and is developing tools like a food systems observatory and a knowledge hub. Members were informed about a recently launched call for proposals under the Horizon Europe framework programme, for R&I projects tackling food waste at household level, with €8 million available in funding for two projects. Projects should aim to develop and validate new tools and methods (including AI) for measuring household food waste, distinguishing edible from inedible waste, and understanding consumer behaviours to create reduction strategies. The deadline to apply with a short project proposal is 4 September 2025.

10. AOB

A representative from the **Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Norway (PDF)** presented the recently adopted Norwegian Food Waste Act, which aims to halve edible food waste by 2030, building on an earlier voluntary agreement targeting a 15% reduction by 2020 (which reached a 9.5% reduction). The Act focuses on better resource use across the food value chain — from food production to sale — but excludes consumers and households. The Act obliges businesses to regularly perform due diligence assessments and implement measures to prevent and reduce food waste; it includes measures to facilitate food donation and marketing of foods close to their date marking, as well as a sanctions regime.

11. Conclusions and wrap-up by the Chair

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their active participation. The Chair explained that DG SANTE intends to seek the re-establishment of the EU Platform at the end of its current mandate (end 2026) in order to ensure continued support for Member States in their efforts to achieve reduction of food waste, which will be particularly relevant after the adoption of the amended Waste Framework Directive. In closing the meeting, the Chair reminded Member States representatives that DG SANTE would contact them shortly in order to designate the national competent authorities that can apply for the Single Market Programme action grants.

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).