The Farm to Fork Strategy

For a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

European Green Deal - von der Leyen Commission

5 October 2022 (Tokyo)
The European Green Deal

- CLIMATE PACT AND CLIMATE LAW
- INVESTING IN SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
- STRIVING FOR GREENER INDUSTRY
- ELIMINATING POLLUTION
- ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL
- PROTECTING NATURE
- MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT
- LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY
- PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY
- FROM FARM TO FORK

The European
Green Deal
Why sustainable Food Systems?

• Because Food Systems are globally responsible for around 21-37% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

• Because, we are confronted to overwhelming paradoxes in the food systems:

  While, in the EU, 33 million people cannot afford a quality meal every second day, 20% of the food produced is wasted, half of the adult population is overweight and obesity is rising.

• Because the COVID-19 pandemic has stressed the importance of robust and resilient food systems.

• Because we are committed to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.
Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals

- Reduce the environmental and climate footprint of the food system
- Lead a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork
- Tap into new opportunities
- Create a robust and resilient food system
2030 Targets for sustainable food production

- Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous pesticides
- Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of fertilisers by at least 20%
- Reduce sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%
- Achieve at least 25% of the EU’s agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture
Integrated approach from farm to fork needed

Different levels of governance

Multiple instruments:
- Legislation and regulation
- Financial incentives
- Education
- Research and Innovation
- Procurement
- Voluntary commitments
- Green Alliances
Actions focused on Food production

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Actions to ensure sustainable food production (1/2)

- Adopt recommendations to MS addressing the nine specific objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), before submission draft CAP Strategic Plans
- Revision of Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and enhancement of Integrated Pest Management
- Revision of Regulations to facilitate plant protection products containing biological active substances
- Action plan for the organic sector for 2021-2026 to stimulate supply and demand for organic products
- Action plan for integrated nutrient management to reduce the pollution from fertilisers
Proposition for a revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on transport and slaughter.

Proposal for a revision of the feed additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming.

Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers (support position in food chain).

Clarification of the scope of competition rules with regard to sustainability in collective actions.

Proposal for a Farm Sustainability Data Network (data and advice on sustainable farming practices).
Actions focused on food producers and retail
Farm to Fork Strategy
Actions to stimulate sustainable practices by food industry and retail, hospitality and food service

- **Initiative to improve the corporate governance framework** (integrate sustainability into corporate strategies)
- **Set nutrient profiles** to restrict promotion of food high in salt, sugar or fat
- **Develop an EU code and monitoring framework for responsible business and marketing conduct** in the food supply chain
- **Proposal revision EU legislation on Food Contact Materials** (food safety, environmental footprint)
- **Stimulate reformulation** of processed food, including setting of maximum levels for certain nutrients
- **Revision EU marketing standards** for agricultural, fishery and aquaculture products (ensure uptake and supply of sustainable products)
- **Enhance coordination to tackle Food Fraud**
Actions focused on consumers

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Actions to promote shift towards healthy, sustainable diets

Determine the best modalities for setting minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food procurement

Review of the EU school scheme legal framework: refocus on healthy and sustainable food

Review of the EU promotion programme for agricultural and food products (aimed at sustainable production and consumption)

Proposal VAT rates (currently being discussed in Council): could allow to make more targeted use of rates (e.g. to support organic fruit and vegetables).

Proposal for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to enable consumers to make health conscious food choices

Proposal to require origin indication for certain products.

Proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices

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New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

Farm to Fork Strategy
New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

- Currently no dedicated EU framework law on food sustainability similar to the EU framework law on food/feed safety, i.e. General Food Law (GFL)
- Different pieces of legislation address some components of food sustainability, e.g. Pesticides, GMOs, (food) waste, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Plant Reproductive Material ... but none do so holistically
- Fitness Check of the GFL (2018) → regulatory framework found largely inadequate to address the new challenges of food sustainability
- **Objective:** ensure that all foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable through a socially responsible food value chain.
  - an enabling environment for future policy and legislation, ensuring coherence with all EU food related policies in terms of sustainability objectives;
  - a favourable and transparent food environment making it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets;
Enabling transition - Promoting global transition

- International cooperation to support developing countries in their transition to sustainable food systems;
- Inclusion of ambitious sustainability chapter, including on food, in all EU bilateral trade agreements.
- Work through international standard setting bodies (e.g. Codex) and promotion of sustainable food systems in international fora and events (e.g. UN Summit on Food Systems in 2021).
- Environmental aspects taken into account when assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances no longer approved in the EU.
- Promotion of appropriate labelling schemes - to ensure that food imported into the EU is gradually produced in a sustainable way.
For healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet.

The Farm to Fork Strategy

IT’S DOWN TO US!