

Legislative framework for a Union sustainable food system

Advisory group on sustainability of food systems

19 October 2022

DG SANTE - Farm to Fork

European Union



New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE:

- *Set the foundations for the **systemic changes** that are needed by all actors of the food system, including policy makers, business operators and consumers in order to **accelerate the transition to a sustainable EU food system.***
- *Promote policy coherence at EU and national level, mainstream sustainability in all food-related policies and strengthen the resilience of food systems.*



Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



What are the problems?



The long-term viability and resilience of the food system is compromised



Making healthy and sustainable choices remains too complicated



The Union regulatory structure of the current food system does not support a sustainable Union food system

Why should the EU Act?

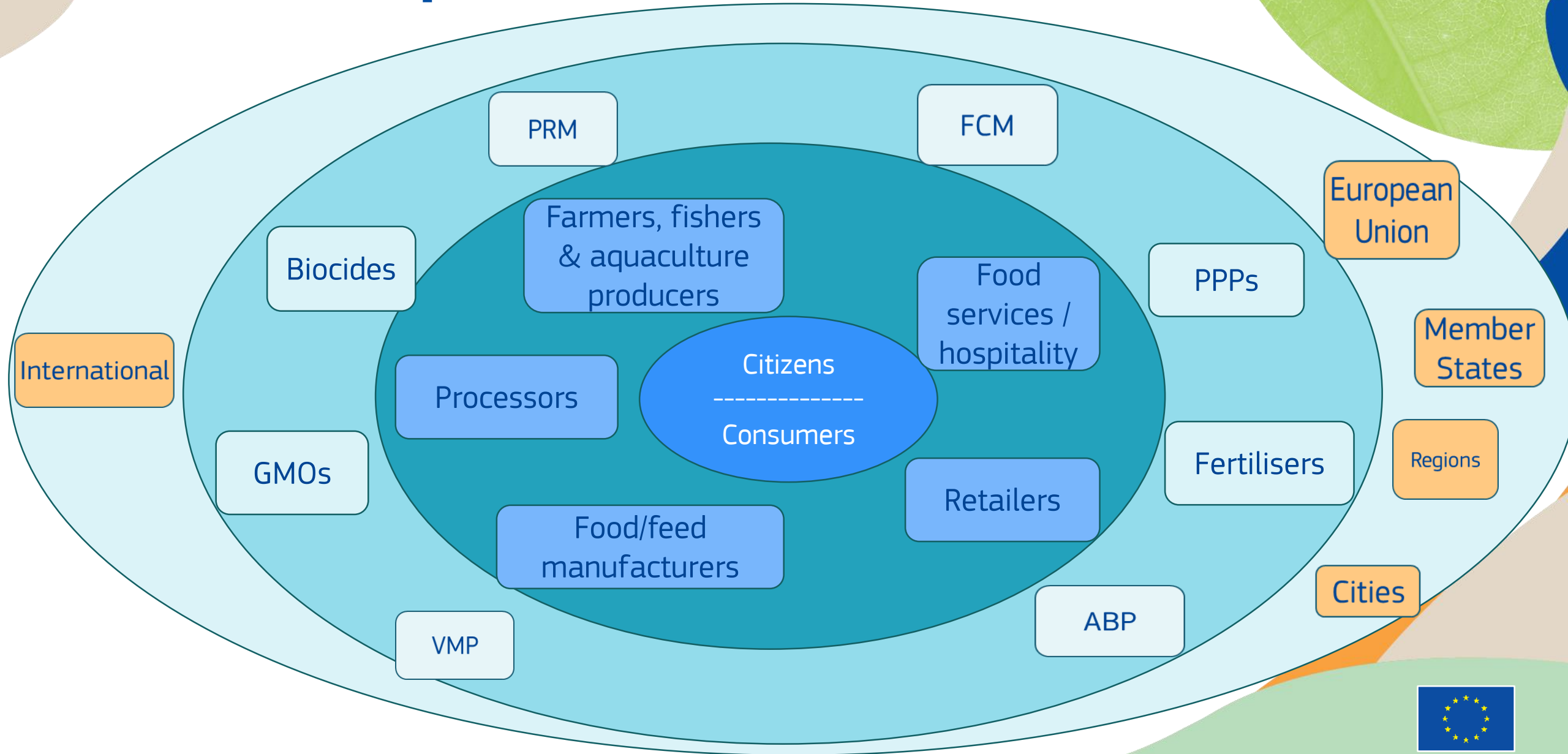
- National approaches create incompatible systems of sustainability, fragment the internal market and create confusion and distrust of the consumer.
- Common requirements at EU level, will ensure a harmonised and well-functioning internal market across all Member States and, a level playing field for businesses
- Coherent sustainable food systems, recognized all over Europe, will enable economies of scale, reduce costs and create incentives for the food business operators to develop them.
- A proactive, recognizable and reliable framework will also enhance the credibility of the European Union, towards its citizens as well as towards third countries

Elements of the FSFS

- Common definitions: e.g. (food system/ sustainable food system/ food environment/food system actors/sustainable diets)
- General objectives to be pursued vis-à-vis sustainability of the food system in all future Union and national law, anchoring in law the objectives of the F2F communication;
- General principles targeting policy makers: future and existing legislation will be aligned/adapted where relevant to those principles.
- Governance provisions to frame and encourage multilevel engagement
- 'Favourable food environment' provisions
- Monitoring and enforcement provisions



Broad scope



Policy options for push measures

Option 0	Option 1	Requirements within FSFS				
		Option 2	Option 3	Option 4		Option 5
Do nothing	Voluntary	Review and alignment of sectoral legislation through requirements, in line with FSFS objectives/principles	Increasing compliance with sustainability standards by explicitly establishing the primary responsibility of business operators (strengthened due diligence) for sustainability purposes	Elimination from the Union market of the least sustainable food systems operations by setting minimum sustainability requirements based on the 'do no harm principle'		A combination of options 2, 3 (primary responsibility) and 4 (sustainability requirement)
				4A – Only products produced in the EU	4B – Products produced and placed in the EU (imports are covered in the scope)	The options are not mutually exclusive

Pull measures: sustainability labelling

Option 0	Option 1	Regulatory options				
		Option 2	Option 3		Option 4	
			New EU framework for sustainability labelling			
Do nothing	Voluntary	Sustainability labelling provisions developed in sector specific legislation	General framework for sustainability related information to consumers for all foods + voluntary harmonised EU sustainability label		General framework for sustainability related information to consumers for all foods + mandatory harmonised EU sustainability label	
			3a: only for food products of higher sustainability performance.	3b: all food products	4a: for all EU food products	4b: for all EU and imported food products

Pull measures: sustainable public procurement

Option 0	Option 1	Regulatory options	
		Option 2	Option 3
Do nothing	Voluntary	General provisions and requirements aiming to raise awareness and improve skills and knowledge of SPP, capacity building and support authorities in using public procurement strategically	Mandatory general and specific requirements

Governance

Provide a frame for a multi-level cooperation of food system actors

- Laying down appropriate processes and arrangements to enhance, and frame multi-level cooperation, engagement and public participation both at EU, MS and regional or local levels

Provide a basis for the development of food sustainability strategies by MS

- Introduction of provisions requiring or recommending MS to develop plans to meet certain identified goals/objectives set out in the FSFS or nationally set (quantified) goals in specific areas
- National Strategies should be regularly reviewed
- MS performance would be monitored via a monitoring framework with key indicators for the food system, the main features of which could be laid down in the FSFS

Consultation activities for the FSFS

➤ OPEN PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

- 12 weeks of consultation in all EU languages from 28 April 2022 to 21 July 2022
- Total of 2670 responses
- Summary report published: [Sustainable EU food system –new initiative \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e060400c-1230-4628-9901-840040000000/asset/docs/default-source/fsfs-consultation/sustainable-eu-food-system-new-initiative-2022-07-21.pdf)

➤ WORKSHOPS with EP, EESC, CoR, relevant EU agencies:

- End of May/June and October 2022

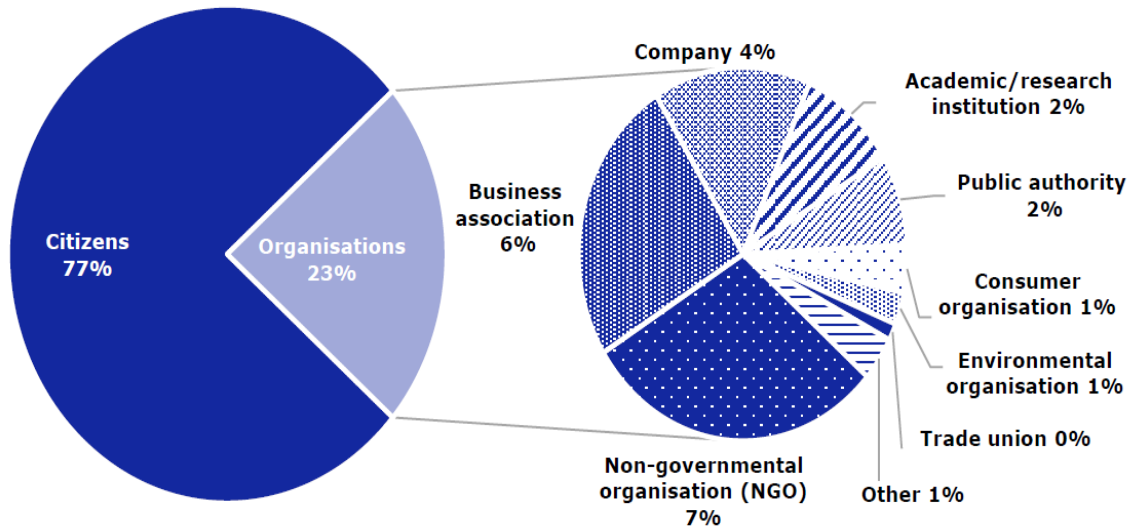
➤ TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS:

- Organized by SANTE external contractor (Ecorys):
 - Interviews – July/August/September 2022
 - Targeted surveys – July/August/September 2022
 - Stakeholder workshops – September/October 2022
- SME survey running from 31 August to 30 October 2022

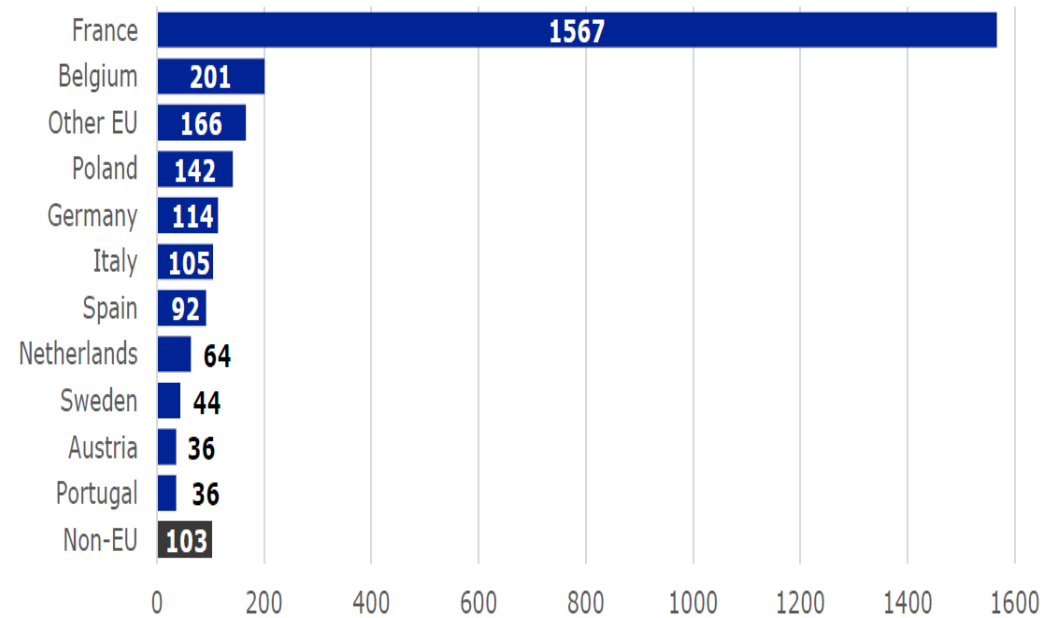


OPC : preliminary results (1)

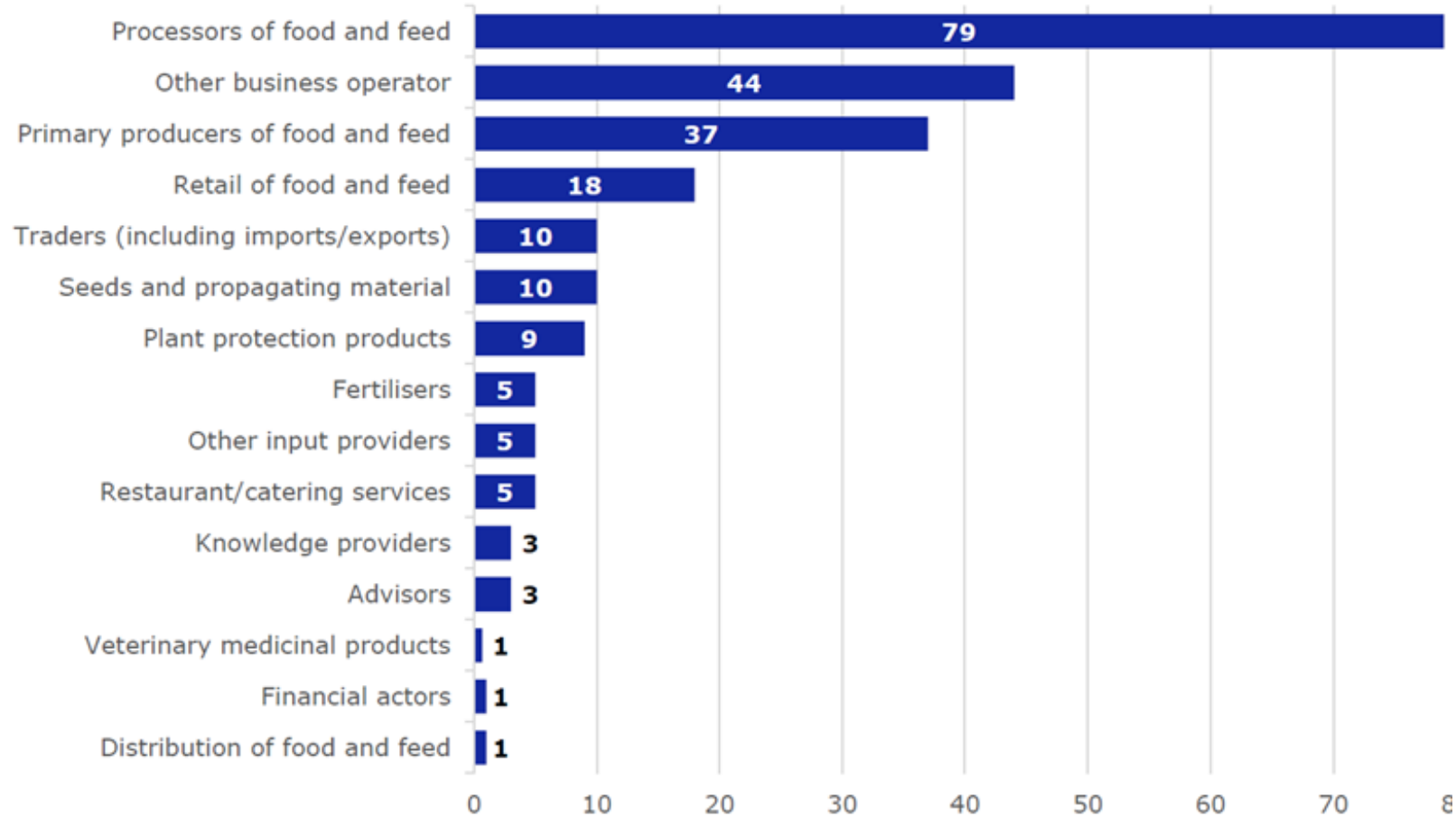
Breakdown of responses received by stakeholder group (n=2,670)



Breakdown of responses by country of origin (n=2,670)



OPC : preliminary results (2)



Thank you



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