The second meeting of the Task Force on Thematic Session 2 on “Improving the Impact of food processing, retail and food services’ own operations on sustainability” concentrated on the deliberation of members’ on the fine-tuning of Aspirational Objectives, Indicative Actions and Enablers in view of preparing for the drafting phase of the code.

After introductory remarks by the Chair, representatives of a prominent European food innovation initiative were invited to present some models of public private partnerships in the area of food sustainability.

A compilation of members’ feedback to the “homework” questions was then presented by the rapporteur.

In the ensuing deliberations, the main points were:

- Concern raised by individual members of the thematic session as to the feasibility of certain actions proposed in the feedback.
- Concern by some members of the thematic session as to the SME-friendliness of some of the actions proposed.

On the basis of the responses to the homework questions, the Chair presented a new version of a potential framework of Aspirational Objectives, Targets and Indicative Actions. The Chair proposed to add the feature of “enablers” to the structure of the code.

In the ensuing deliberations, the main points were:

- Overall consensus on the approach presented by the Chair and on that the framework consisting of the Aspirational Objectives, Targets, and Actions is the right way forward.
- Overall consensus on the level of granularity of indicative actions as presented by the Chair.
- Overall consensus on the addition of a column to the table for enablers, needed to support stakeholders in reaching the indicative actions.
- Aspects with relation to the inclusion of socioeconomic considerations were raised, but did not reach a final consensus at this point. Questions remain with respect to its appropriateness.
- Overall consensus, in the interest of progress, to limit new additions to the Aspirational Objectives, Targets and indicative Actions, in view of moving to the drafting phase of the code.
- Overall agreement that new contributions should focus on addressing existing elements (Aspirational Objectives, Targets, Indicative Actions).
- Overall agreement that the actions are to be seen as an inspirational, non-exhaustive list of actions, to help to clarify the aspirational objectives.

Building on the progress made during the meeting, and on the Chair’s proposal for the way forward, preparatory homework questions were presented in view of the next meeting on thematic session 2 (12 May 2021, time TBD). The deadline for feedback is 6 May 2021 COB.