



WORKING GROUP ON CONSUMER FOOD WASTE PREVENTION
SUB-GROUP TO THE EU PLATFORM ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE
TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

As provided for in the terms of reference of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW)¹ and its rules of procedure, the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety ('DG SANTE') may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by DG SANTE in consultation with Platform members. Feedback² from Platform members collected at the end of its first mandate highlighted the topic of consumer food waste as an important area where further work should be carried out at EU level, in order to change consumer behavior and social norms related to food waste generation. Therefore, DG SANTE took the initiative to establish a dedicated working group on consumer food waste prevention as a sub-group to the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.

The sub-group will provide a forum to exchange information on interventions carried out to modify consumer behavior concerning food waste generation and/or raise consumer awareness about the issue and results achieved. The sub-group will be involved in the EU pilot project, financed by the European Parliament, and carried out by DG SANTE in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre and the European Consumer Food Waste Forum³ which aims to gather data and identify a variety of evidence-based, practical solutions to reduce food waste at the consumer level, including household and food services.

As up to 10% of food waste generated annually in the EU is linked to date marking⁴, the sub-group will also support work to facilitate consumer understanding of date marking.

¹<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/core/api/front/expertGroupAdditionalInfo/41511/download>

² Ahead of the re-establishment of the Platform for a new mandate, members were asked to reply to a survey on the role and the operations of the expert group (48 contributions received). When asked about the relevance of Platform sub-groups and other important topics that the new Platform should tackle, consumer behaviour and changing social norms around food waste were among the most common answers given by respondents, along with research and innovation and food losses.

³ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/projects-activities/european-consumer-food-waste-forum_en

⁴ European Commission: Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, Market study on date marking and other information provided on food labels and food waste prevention – Final report, Publications Office, 2018, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2875/808514>

The sub-group is expected to meet twice a year (in addition to the Platform's plenary meetings) and its working language for meetings shall be English. The sub-group shall regularly report on its activities to the Platform.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste and the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')⁵.

2. TASKS

The sub-group's specific tasks shall be:

- (a) to support the Commission in identifying and prioritising EU actions to promote consumer behavioural change and raise awareness concerning food waste generation;
- (b) to support members in identifying and implementing appropriate actions to reduce consumer food waste at national, regional and local levels, in particular interventions to change social norms that can achieve long-term impacts;
- (c) to support members in identifying and implementing appropriate actions to promote more consistent use of date marking and facilitate consumer understanding of these dates;
- (d) to contribute to the collection and analysis of information on consumer-targeted interventions. In this regard, the sub-group will work in close cooperation with the European Consumer Food Waste Forum, which delivered a compendium of evidence-based practical solutions and tools in July 2023⁶;
- (e) to monitor implementation of the recommendations for action⁷ of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste as regards consumers;
- (f) to develop tools in relation to date marking and food waste prevention;
- (g) to exchange information on the latest developments in consumer food waste prevention (including date marking activities), experience, evidence-based good practices and lessons learned, focusing on Member States' contexts and needs in order to drive further action at scale at national level. Such information may also be shared through the EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub;
- (h) to contribute to awareness raising about the issue of consumer food waste and related EU-level actions (including work of the EU Platform on FLW) through targeted communications⁸, with common messages that are adaptable to national contexts and deliverables accessible to a wider audience, including on the occasion of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

⁵ C(2016) 3301.

⁶ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC133004>

⁷ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7143f94e-600f-4df5-acef-5b332e7e44ec_en

⁸ Such communications can be done on an ad-hoc basis or can be linked to events such as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW).

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Members shall be Member States' authorities, other public entities, and organisations. All members shall be selected among members of the EU Platform on FLW.
- 2. Member States' authorities, other public entities and organisations shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG SANTE may refuse the nomination by an organisation of a representative if it considers this nomination inappropriate in the light of the requirements specified in the call for applications. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.
- 3. Member organisations who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the sub-group’s deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG SANTE, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the sub-group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

4. OBSERVERS

- 1. Individuals, organisations or public entities other than Member States’ authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation.
- 2. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
- 3. Observers and observers’ representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the sub-group, and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the sub-group.

5. CO-CHAIRS OF MEETINGS

In line with the Platform’s terms of reference, ‘*sub-group meetings may be co-chaired by DG SANTE and Platform members, as appointed by DG SANTE based on their expertise and expressed interest to coordinate work related to their field of expertise.*’ Co-chairs appointed from among the Platform members may request to hold meetings of their respective sub-groups, propose agenda items and topics for discussion. Co-chairing will take place on a rotational basis, for those members who have expressed an interest in acting as co-chair in their application form. Expressions of interest in co-chairing may be updated during the course of the Platform’s mandate.

The Commission will update the **co-chairing calendar** based on the interests expressed by members.

Organisation	Year
Wageningen University & Research (WUR)	2024
Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)	

Venturis Horeca	2025
Matvett, Norsus and Nofima Consortium	2026

Done in Brussels, on 5 April 2024

Updated in Brussels, on 23 January 2025