



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Food and feed safety, innovation
Food information and composition, food waste

SUMMARY REPORT

JOINT MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON FOOD LOSSES AND FOOD WASTE WITH EXPERTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADAPTATION COMMITTEE ON WASTE

DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (SANTE)

Brussels, Rue de la Loi 130, Room 130B

04 June 2018 – From 10:00 to 12:30

Chair: Tim Gumbel, *Deputy Head of Unit, Food information and composition, food waste, DG SANTE*

Commission: DG SANTE: Bartosz Zambrzycki, Dora Szentpaly-Kleis, Karin Ostra; DG ENV: Julius Langendorff, Silvija Aile; EUROSTAT: Hans-Eduard Hauser; JRC: Carla Patinha Caldeira.

Member States represented (25):

AT, BE, BG, CZ, CY, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, SI, SK, UK

Observers: Norway

1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair welcomed participants to the joint meeting of the Expert Group on Food Losses and Food Waste and the Technical Adaptation Committee on Waste Directive, discussing the 2nd draft of the Commission delegated act on a food waste measurement methodology and other follow-up work related to the revised Waste Framework Directive.

2. FOOD WASTE

2.1 SECOND DRAFT OF THE DELEGATED ACT: CHANGES IN COMPARISON TO THE 1ST DRAFT – PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION

The presentation offered an overview of the main developments in food waste monitoring up to date, as well as of the legal procedures to adopt the delegated act on food waste measurement. After indicating the main elements of the delegated act and the main changes in

comparison to the first draft of the document, the Chair also announced a provisional timeframe for future work.

At the end of the intervention, the Chair highlighted the need to introduce proportionate measures to implement the new system of monitoring across the EU, giving Member States certain flexibility in choosing measurement methods that ensure robust and reliable data.

Several members asked for further clarifications concerning reporting periods for the different stages of the food supply chain (PT, IE, DE). The Chair explained that according to Article 7, Member States have to collect data for the latter as of 1st January 2024 (except for the household sector where data would be collected and reported starting 2020), with reporting to take place within 18 months after the end of the reporting period. Other Member States also expressed concerns regarding measuring and reporting food waste going to the sewer (DK, DE, EL).

UK requested a delay in reporting on food waste from primary production, due to lack of data and the need to assess existent measuring methods. The Commission emphasized that the proposal to reform the Common Agricultural Policy would also contribute to the prevention and reduction of food losses and food waste, a commitment which also had to be reflected in the monitoring methodology. In terms of methods, Member States could consider the annual reporting on the amounts of animal and vegetable waste (through the waste legislation) as a starting point for data collection.

Various Member States welcomed the possibility to implement 'rolling' studies throughout the 4 year period when a detailed analysis is bound to take place (UK, DK), with some inquiring for further clarification concerning the process (DK, NL, EL, BE). The Chair explained that Member States have the obligation to carry out a detailed analysis for each sector of the food supply chain over the 4 year cycle, being free to organise their work as they wish (e.g. focusing on different sectors across years rather than covering all sectors within a year).

DK, NO and UK called for the Commission to further develop the recommended measuring methods under Annex II, arguing that doing so could improve data robustness and comparability across the EU. UK also requested that the delegated act allowed for an update of methods according to technological advancements. The Chair reiterated the need to accommodate Member States' capabilities and adopt a proportionate approach, while also reassuring participants that the delegated act would accommodate future changes in terms of methods.

NL highlighted the need to update references in view of the final text of the revised Waste Framework Directive (Article 37 paragraph 2 instead of 3); the Commission took note of the comment and would update the text accordingly.

The Chair invited Member States to submit written comments on the 2nd draft of the delegated act within a period of two weeks, as the following Expert Group meeting would take place on 9 July 2018.

2.2 PRESENTATION OF ANNEX II OF THE DELEGATED ACT FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION: METHODS OF FOOD WASTE MEASUREMENT IN THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN – PRESENTATION BY THE COMMISSION

The presentation brought further explanations regarding periodical monitoring (Article 5), together with practical examples for food waste monitoring in the processing and manufacturing sector and households. The Commission also referenced the sources for methods indicated under Annex II and offered more details on each one of them. Further on, Member States were asked to provide their input on how the Annex could be improved.

DE, AT and DK raised concerns about the possibility of changing measurement methods over time and the impact that this might have on comparability of collected data. The Commission confirmed methods could be changed and referred to the growing body of scientific guidance available for consultation. In the Commission's view, this should be possible without generating big discrepancies between data.

AT stressed the fact that the uncertainty of the estimation of food waste going to home composting or discharged via the sewer system is very high, and consequently a monitoring of changes due to measures taken would not be possible.

In reply to DE's inquiry, the Commission explained that the baseline for establishing EU-wide targets would be discussed at a later stage.

The Commission replied to IE's question and clarified food waste in home composting would also need to be quantified. The Commission explained that such data should not be based on mixed waste and invited Member States to initiate discussions on how to best measure food waste in home compost during the second part of the meeting.

The Commission agreed with AT in regard to yearly estimations not being a good tool to assess food waste changes resulting from active national policies, highlighting once again the need to carry out a detailed analysis every 4 years.

EL emphasized the variation in methods and raised concerns regarding future targets, while the Commission explained the latter would be set at a subsequent stage based on Member States' data sets.

It was confirmed that Member States would not be required to report on the destination of food waste streams (UK), as destinations of waste in general are already reported under Waste Statistics.

The Commission confirmed the addition of mass balance as a measuring method under the processing and manufacturing; restaurant and food services sectors, following FI's suggestion. Replying to NL's request to include questionnaires and interviews as possible measuring methods for the restaurant and food services sector, the Commission indicated direct measurement as a preferred approach to obtain more reliable data, referring to the FUSIONS manual as a reference.

To NO's request, the Commission explained that recital 17 was introduced to take into account the request of some Member States who wish to report on food losses and food waste beyond the minimum requirements laid down in the delegated act.

FI asked for further clarifications concerning the obligation to use the waste codes in Annex III. The Commission explained that the European Waste Catalogue codes presented in the document serve as guidance and do not have a mandatory nature. FI suggested a change in wording to reflect the statement.

In closing the agenda point on food waste, the Chair asked Member States to provide comments on the second draft of the delegated act within the following 2 weeks, in order to allow the Commission to process the input received before the next meeting on 9 July 2018. The Commission further indicated that a first draft of the implementing act on the reporting format - which would also cover data quality requirements – would be provided to Member States before the forthcoming meeting.