

Reducing food loss and waste: EU action plan

Farm to Fork Strategy

EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
10 December 2020

European Union



Learning from the progress assessment vs 2016 Council Conclusions on FLW

- Confirms Member State commitment and actions to achieve SDG 12.3: progress made, yet need to accelerate efforts
- Almost all Member States have adopted national strategies to prevent/reduce food loss and waste – in line with **Platform recommendations**
- Recognises contribution of EU Platform on FLW in both guiding work at EU level (e.g. Circular Economy Action Plan deliverables) and supporting implementation of effective FW prevention in Member States
- Identifies further opportunities to meet Member States' needs and enhance overall contribution of EU FLW Platform to EU/global FLW reduction targets.



How did Member States implement the Platform's recommendations for action?

- The majority have developed or are in the process of developing **national plans or strategies**, although only around half of them have set **targets**
- Almost half are integrating food loss and waste prevention in **policy areas** (in addition to waste, e.g. agriculture, circular economy...)
- **Climate action** is a big area of opportunity which should be further explored
- Most have put in place structured processes to **consult the different sectors and stakeholders** (e.g. platforms, voluntary agreements...)
- For most, implementation of food waste **monitoring is ongoing** and few have carried out studies to gather data on **food losses in primary production**



How did Member States implement the Platform's recommendations for action?

- Very few have carried out work to **assess the effectiveness and efficiency** of their food loss and waste prevention initiatives
- All Member States have carried out **awareness raising initiatives**. Many use **school education programmes** to promote food waste reduction and prevention with few organising **professional training**
- While the majority took actions to facilitate **consumer understanding** of the meaning of **date marking**, only a third of Member States promoted more consistent use of date marking by **food business operators**
- Half of Member States use fiscal instruments to **incentivise** food waste prevention and two-thirds provide **financial (and other) support** to help players take action in their operations (e.g. R&I, training)



Contribution of EU Platform on Food Losses and | Food Waste

- Member States benefit from **sharing information, experience**, strategies, tools and results as well as **exchanging views** on how best to address key issues
- EU Platform « **Recommendations for Action** » have triggered and guided further action on the ground
- EU Platform can **support problem solving** (e.g. *Redistribution of surplus food: examples of practices in the Member States*)
- Provides opportunity for Member States to **benchmark own measures/performance**
- Forum to learn about **international developments** (FAO/UNEP – SDG 12.3)



EU Platform on FLW: suggested topics reflect | varying needs (I)

- **Measurement, date marking and consumer communications** are high on the agenda.
- Measurement: sharing experience, practical guidance, online tools... Focus on compliance with reporting requirements, close involvement with EUROSTAT.
- Consumer communications: interests range from information sharing to EU-wide consumer information campaigns
- **Examine legislative issues and opportunities:** e.g. recommendations for further adaptation of EU legislation (e.g. food safety, food labelling, feed...); consider overarching EU legislative framework; strengthen interface with MS working groups (i.e. food and food waste experts)



EU Platform on FLW: suggested topics reflect | varying needs (II)

- Topics linked to/Platform consulted on the **Farm to Fork Strategy**; food waste reduction within an integrated food systems approach; additional focus on **food losses**
- **Valorisation**: more attention to ingredients industry (prolong shelf-life, innovation, value creation...) and increased engagement with EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- **« Dashboard » of Member State FLW policies** and actions, kept up-to-date by members
- Continued focus on **performance assessment of food waste prevention initiatives** and « high impact » examples (notably households and primary production)
- Strategic **training plan** for the food industry (manage supply and demand)



| EU Platform on FLW: next steps

- Feedback from Member States confirms the added value of the EU Platform
- EU Platform on FLW will be **re-established as of 2022**
 - New call for expression of interest will be launched to renew membership of private sector organisations
 - COM will sound all members regarding role, operations and deliverables of Platform in view of informing public call and renewed mandate.
- Key topics to be considered for meeting agendas and work programme of current/future Platform and its sub-groups



| Future meetings (and webinars): 2021

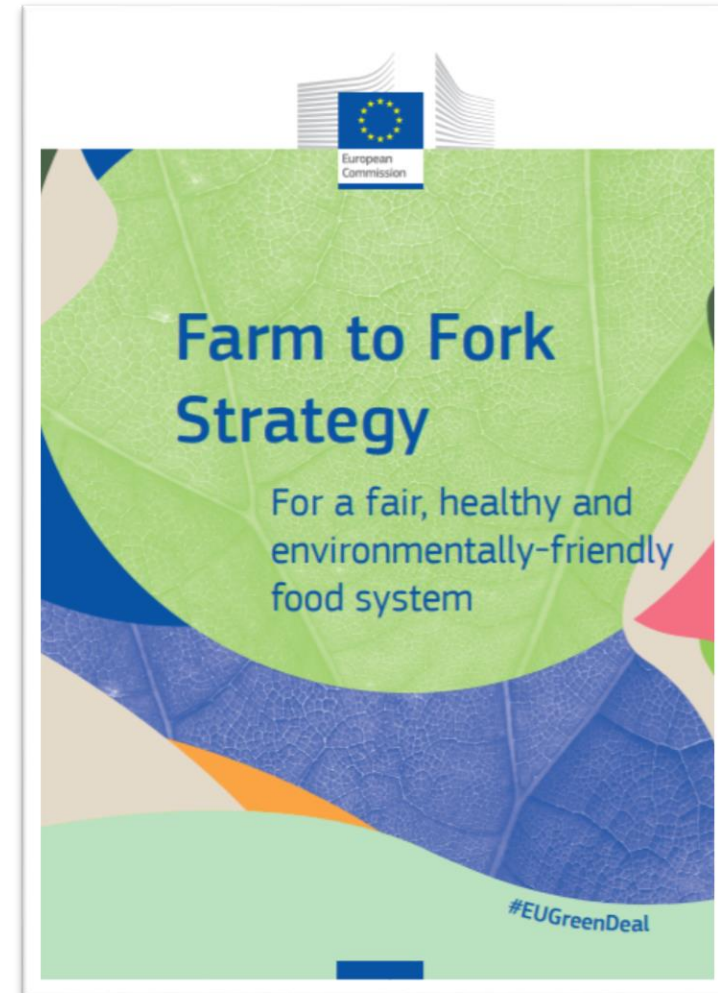
- EU FLW Platform: 18 March and 14 October
- Sub-group on Food Donation – focus on Covid-19 implications (11 February)
- Sub-group on Action & Implementation (25 February)
 - Discuss implementation and follow-up of Platform recommendations and further outreach opportunities
- Sub-group on Food Waste Measurement (4 March)
- Sub-group on Date Marking (July)



Farm to Fork Strategy:

Stepping up action against food loss and waste (I)

- **EU-level targets** for food waste reduction (proposal by 2023)
- Revise EU rules for **date marking** (proposal by 2022)
- Further **integrate food loss & waste prevention** as part of all relevant EU policies
- Investigate **food losses** at production stage and explore ways of preventing them



Farm to Fork Strategy: Stepping up action against food loss and waste (II)



Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU

- Promote uptake of EU Platform's recommendations for action and implementation of food waste prevention hierarchy
- Strengthen evidence-base for food waste prevention and share best practice through the EU Platform on FLW
 - assess effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives
 - create online *EU food loss and waste prevention hub*
- Support actors in taking action to fight food waste (e.g. Horizon Europe, grants through Single Market Programme)



Food loss and waste measurement – update

Documents published

- Guidance on food waste reporting

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/342366/351811/Guidance+on+food+waste+reporting/5581b0a2-b09e-adc0-4e0a-b20062dfe564>

- Questionnaire

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/342366/0/Annual+reporting+on+the+level+of+food+waste-template-xlsm/7c949cdc-c452-1116-b730-92e68465a9d6>

Webinar of 25 November

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/food-waste-measurement_en



| Promote better understanding and use of date marking

- Revise **EU date marking rules** in order to avoid food waste linked to misunderstanding/misuse of these dates (COM proposal by Q4 2022)
 - Proposal supported by impact assessment, public consultation and consumer research
 - Aims of consumer research:
 - **better understand** how current date marking rules and their implementation affect consumers' decisions to consume/use or discard foods;
 - **identify new ways of expressing date marking** (e.g. in terms of terminology, format, visual presentation) that meet consumers' information needs regarding food safety (health) and quality whilst minimising food waste behaviour;
 - **test the effectiveness** of these new ways of expressing date marking (vs. the current ones) on EU consumers' understanding in order to reduce their food waste behaviour.
 - EU Platform on FLW and MS working group on food labelling will be closely associated with this work.



| Promote better understanding and use of date marking

- **Scientific advice from EFSA** to inform decision-making by food business operators on date marking (i.e. ‘use by’ vs ‘best before’ date), setting product shelf-life and defining other relevant information for food labelling (i.e. risk-based approach focused on food safety)
 - Adopted 21 October 2020 (published 1 December 2020): “[Guidance on date marking and related food information: part 1 \(date marking\)](#)”
 - March 2021: other labelling aspects (e.g. instructions of use after opening the package or defrosting advice for consumers)



Promote better understanding and use of date marking

Consumer communications on date marking

Ongoing exchange with Platform members on campaigns, tools and results achieved



Visual 1



Visual 2



Visual 3



Visual 4



Visual 5

KNOW YOUR DATES

"USE BY" INFORMS YOU ABOUT FOOD SAFETY

"BEST BEFORE" INFORMS YOU ABOUT FOOD QUALITY

29 SEPTEMBER 2020 | International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

#FLWday #FoodWasteEU

ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste_en

European Commission



Recent initiatives on food hygiene in view of food donations

- Draft Regulation amending the Annexes to **Regulation (EC) No 852/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs as regards food allergen management, **redistribution of food** and food safety culture: **Favorable opinion during the PAFF meeting of 12 October. Publication in next weeks.**
- Draft Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to **Regulation (EC) No 853/2004** of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific hygiene requirements for food of animal origin (**freezing at retail**): **Publication expected in March-April 2021**



Redistribution of food (amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004)

- Purpose: Redistribution of food surplus for human consumption, in particular through food donation, where safe to do so, ensures the highest value use of edible food resources, while preventing food waste
- Based on the 2018 second EFSA scientific opinion on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments and food donations. The opinion highlights that food donation presents several new food safety challenges at retail level and therefore recommends several additional general hygiene requirements



New Chapter Va in Annex II: Redistribution of food

- Lays down obligations of food business operators in ensuring safe food donation practices (e.g. how to check safety and suitability of food for food donation)



Freezing of products of animal origin (amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004)

- Purpose: Increasing/facilitating the means of ensuring the safe redistribution by food banks and other charities by the freezing of meat at retail level under certain conditions.
- Based on the 2018 second EFSA scientific opinion on hazard analysis approaches for certain small retail establishments and food donations. The opinion highlights that food donation presents several new food safety challenges at retail level and therefore recommends several additional general hygiene requirements, including freezing for redistribution.



Allowing freezing of meat at retail for the purpose of food donation



| Freezing of products of animal origin

- Only at retail and for the purpose of food donations
- before the expiry of the “use by” date of meat
- without undue delay to a temperature of -18°C or lower
- ensuring that the date of freezing is documented and provided either on the label or by other means
- **excluding meat that has been frozen before (i.e. defrosted meat)**
- in accordance with any condition laid down by the competent authorities for freezing and further use as food

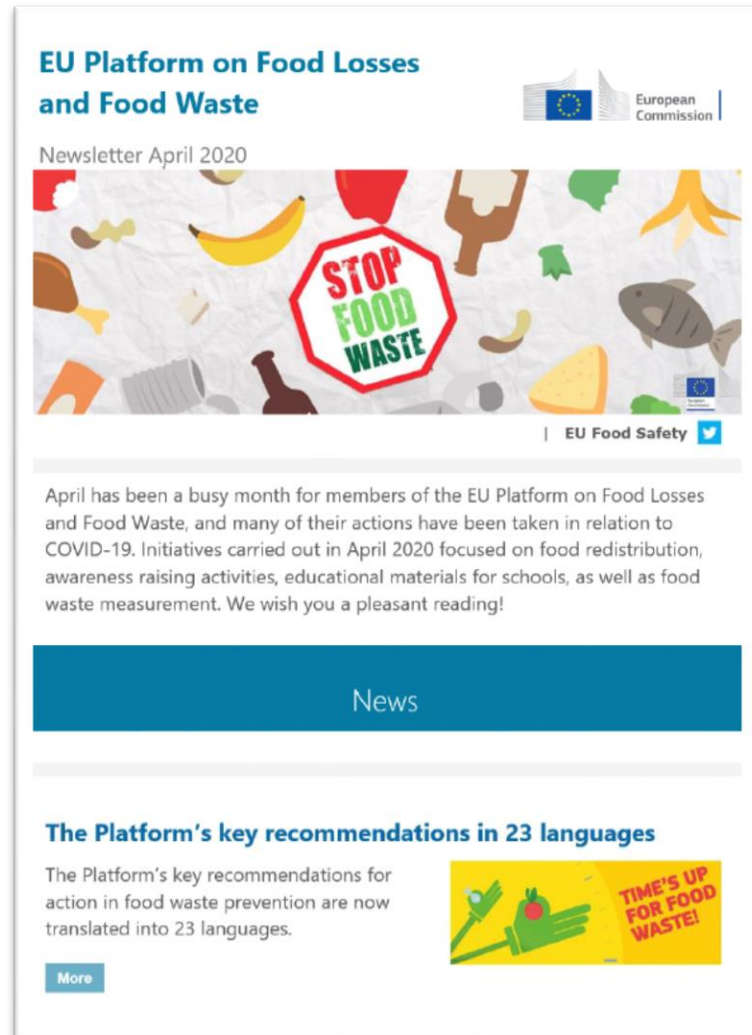


| Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU

- Promote **sharing of evidence-based best practice** through EU Platform on FLW
 - Building on the Joint Research Centre's exercise to assess effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives and REFRESH guidance on evaluating household food waste, refine common evaluation framework.
 - Repeat exercise (2021) in view of identifying initiatives with greatest impact on food waste prevention.
 - Recommendations and tools to enhance the effectiveness of interventions carried out to prevent and reduce consumer food waste in the EU (via EP pilot project – “European Consumer Food Waste Forum” (pending approval))



Scale up action and mobilise key players across the EU



- Create an online **EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub** (including MS-specific policy section) – currently under development, release in 2021
- Broaden outreach: the **monthly newsletter** of EU Platform on FLW offers an overview of food loss and waste prevention initiatives taken by its members
 - > subscription link on Commission's [food waste website](#)



Support actions: R&I - European Green Deal call

Title: Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations for sustainable food from farm to fork

Deadline date: 26 January 2021

scope: (...) support the deployment and scaling up of innovations that contribute to the objectives of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy. Proposals will test, pilot and demonstrate innovative systemic solutions (TRL 5-7) to one of the following six subtopics, corresponding to urgent and pressing food systems' challenges:

Subtopic E. [2021] Reducing food losses and waste at every stage of the food chain including consumption, while also avoiding unsustainable packaging (IA)

link: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/lc-gd-6-1-2020>



| Support actions: R&I – Horizon Europe

- **Work in progress !**
- **First Horizon Europe Strategic plan (2021-2024) and first work programme (2021-2022): open calls spring 2021 (MFF...)**
- Cluster 6 – Food waste and losses covered in several **areas of intervention**
 - Food systems; Bio-based Innovation Systems; Circular Systems
- Potential European Partnerships
 - Circular bio-based Europe: sustainable innovation for new local value from waste and biomass
 - European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems



| Support actions: Single Market Programme

Tentative scope:

- Aimed to help implement food waste prevention actions (incl. FW measurement).
- Form: Grants and calls for proposals
- Addressed to: a) Member States and b) Civil Society Stakeholders

Status: Work in progress ! parent legislation not yet adopted (still in trilogue)

2018/0231(COD) - Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics 2021–2027



Thank you



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Slide 15:

Visual 1: Too Good For The Bin, Germany

Visual 2: Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

Visual 3: Too Good To Go

Visual 4: Food Waste Free United coalition, the Netherlands

Visual 5: Food Waste Free United coalition, the Netherlands

