



# EU food donation guidelines: update

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# Facilitate food donations

- Commission to develop **EU-wide food donation guidelines** for donors and receivers of food surplus (Circular Economy Action Plan)
- **Facilitate information sharing:** resource section on Commission "food waste" website (national guidelines, recent studies and reports); online register of EU rules on food hygiene
- Commission to implement **Pilot Project on food redistribution:** further research on practices/barriers in MS; support dissemination of future EU guidelines

# EU guidelines on food donation

**Overall aim:** clarify relevant provisions of EU legislation and help to lift barriers to food redistribution, within the current EU regulatory framework.

## **Objectives:**

- Facilitate **compliance of surplus food providers and recipients** with requirements laid down in EU regulatory framework (food safety, food hygiene, traceability, liability, VAT etc...)
- **Promote common interpretation** of relevant EU rules by regulatory authorities in the MS

## EU food donation guidelines: complement but not duplicate national/sectorial guidance



**Circulaire relative aux dispositions applicables aux banques alimentaires et associations caritatives** (Belgian food safety agency)



**Evira Foodstuffs donated to food aid** (Finnish food safety agency)

**Guide des bonnes pratiques d'hygiène de la distribution de produits alimentaires par les organismes caritatifs** (<http://draaf.auvergne-rhone-alpes.agriculture.gouv.fr/Limiter-le-gaspillage-par-les-dons>)

**Leitfaden für die Weitergabe von Lebensmitteln an soziale Einrichtungen – Rechtliche Aspekte** ([www.bmelv.de](http://www.bmelv.de))



# Overview of comments received

- 22 Platform members provided comments.
- For many organisations, feedback provided builds on previous contributions (joint MS/stakeholder meeting held – June 2016)
- Feedback: both of a general (eg scope/format) and specific nature
- Revised working document (v6) addresses – as much as possible – all comments made in line with mandate (received by end February).
- Input also received for accompanying document (MS/stakeholder practices)

## General remarks: content

- Guidelines seek to provide a common interpretation of what is allowed in the current EU regulatory framework.
- Overall aim is to facilitate safe food redistribution
  - input received which may contradict EU rules cannot be integrated as such in a guidance document
- Role/responsibilities of MS/stakeholders need to be respected (ie EU-level, not detailed guidance)

## General remarks: format

- Members stress guidance should be clear, easy to use and facilitate information sharing
  - Call for concrete examples to illustrate how EU rules are implemented in practice
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- ⇒ Additional details added wherever possible
  - ⇒ Final format and articulation with practical examples (accompanying document) is under consideration
  - ⇒ Further specific questions relating to interpretation of EU rules (eg sorting of food) may be considered (to be provided by Platform members)

## Other issues raised

- Translation of existing guidance in MS
  - Available guidance (known to SANTE) are published on Commission website (in EN where available)
  - Platform members are invited to share with Commission existing guidance/rules not available in English (to assess feasibility and estimate related costs)
  - May be integrated as part of EP pilot project on food redistribution
- EU guidelines will be disseminated in all EU languages following their adoption



## Other issues raised:

- Food waste prevention and "food waste/use" hierarchy:
  - Food redistribution placed in overall context of food waste prevention (ie need to prevent occurrence of food surplus in the food supply chain).
  - Introduction points to redistribution of safe, edible food for human consumption as best destination when food surpluses occur.
  - Inclusion of a "food waste" hierarchy, in the revised Waste Framework Directive, has been proposed by Parliament.

# EU food donation guidelines: next steps

- Further development of draft with support from Platform sub-group
- Inform other COM working groups (eg FIC, HYG) and consult as needed
- Draft guidance to Platform – 14 June
- Final guidance to be adopted by COM – by end 2017