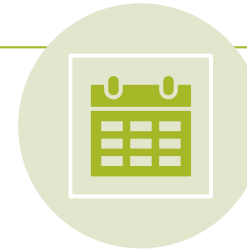




**TOWARDS A
SUSTAINABLE FOOD
SYSTEM**



**A POSITION PAPER
ON THE FRAMEWORK
LAW**



FEBRUARY 2ND, 2023

Problem framing for the framework law

- Triple challenge: a healthy diet for all, climate change, biodiversity
- The EU food system is robust, but it does not ensure sustainable diets
- A system approach is needed: there is too much focus on the actors where the problems are observed.
- Rethinking the roles of all the actors is needed: framework law is needed
- Direct the strong innovation capacity of actors away from ever lower food prices towards more sustainable farming, food processing and food consumption. The true costs of food should be reflected in markets.
- A just transition towards sustainable diets is key. Compensate lack of affordability in income taxes, minimum wages or social security
- The policy challenge is how to coordinate these changes and to overcome silos in policy making. This demands a food system policy with clear objectives that balances economic, ecological and social aspects.

Certification as policy instrument

- Certification: To redirect innovation, classification of farms and food into more or less sustainable types of food.
- Certification of all farms, based on digitization of paperwork (lowers current administrative burden)
- Certification can take into account regional environmental issues
- Reward sustainable farms: label (niche) products, public procurement, chain actors report in ESG report, award eco-schemes CAP, support in land market.
- Reward sustainable farms with a blending obligation
- Prices will reflect true costs of production
- Such a system should also include importers and exporters to guarantee a level playing field with third countries and to prevent adverse effects.

Issues to be taken into account in the framework law

- The major differences in environmental conditions for agriculture between European regions in terms of natural conditions
- Income effects of food system policies
- Income effects of food system policies that effect the standard of living of farmers or workers
- Relations with third countries inside and outside Europe
- The need to move to a circular economy
- Relations with other sectors using biomass
- The rapidly increasing possibilities based on digitalisation for effective policy instruments
- The role of the food environment in nudging the consumer into sustainable consumption.

Basic article for the framework law

- To guarantee a resilient European food system that ensures sustainable diets with low environmental and ethical impacts that contribute to food and nutrition security and to a healthy life for present and future generations by enabling that:
 1. healthy, sustainable diets are available for all European consumers at prices that reflect their true cost in coherence with 'the polluter pays' principle.
 2. food is produced in adequate quantities, with processes that result in environmental and ethical performance that is as best as reasonably achievable and regenerate climate-resilient, healthy agro-systems.
 3. the food system works as inclusively as possible and relations between food chain actors are balanced which results in livelihoods with fair incomes and working conditions for farmers and workers.
 4. new technologies are developed and best available technologies in relation to climate change and eco-system services are promoted, respecting the pre-cautionary principle.

Main policy instruments

- Pricing instruments, including taxes or instruments like the Emission Trading System
- Influence the food environment for consumers
- Certification , digitization and labelling – as discussed

Monitoring and Governance

- Monitoring the impact of sustainable food policies :
 1. Sample farms in Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN) in an integrated way, collected in an auditable accounting approach.
 2. Extension of the IACS system to include the results of the certification process.
- EU has responsibilities for global resilience be active in international policy mechanisms and standard setting.
- Citizen's assemblies can generate broad support for a sustainable food policy
- Coordination group composed of appropriate Commissioners
- A coordination mechanism between the European Commission and the national ministries that is cross-cutting through the traditional policy domains. Member States have to develop comprehensive national strategic plans for sustainable food systems, including actions in the social domain for a just transition.

THANK YOU!

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