HIGH LEVEL FORUM FOR A BETTER FUNCTIONING FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

THE STATE OF FOOD PRICES AND FOOD PRICE MONITORING IN EUROPE

(Document accompanying the Forum’s 2014 report)
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1. **INTRODUCTION**

In 2009, the Commission published the first version of the European Food Price Monitoring Tool (FPMT),\(^1\) which is intended to increase market transparency in the food supply chain.\(^2\) The tool makes it easier to compare changes in prices by making available, in a single database, price indices for agricultural products and foodstuffs at various stages of the food supply chain for a selection of product groups (e.g. grain, flour and bread).

The Commission has since worked to improve the tool, seeking in particular to add new product groups and develop a visualisation tool. It is also carrying out additional price and market analysis, in particular for the context of implementing the common agricultural policy and compiling the Consumer Markets Scoreboard. In the course of this work, the Commission has regularly consulted the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain.\(^3\)

In parallel, the Commission has encouraged EU Member States to set up national food price observatories to conduct more detailed analysis. Several European countries have developed such observatories in recent years.\(^4\) As their activities are tailored to the national context, in particular their market specificities and stakeholder expectations, they differ in terms of organisation, product coverage, the types of price monitored (farm-gate, production/wholesale or consumer prices) and output (price levels, price indices, policy analysis, stakeholder dialogue, etc.). Compiling an overview of national observatories’ activities may contribute to the dissemination of good practice and help us to draw conclusions on price developments at European level.

This report analyses recent price developments for agricultural and food products at both national and EU level, using the above tools, and aims to compile information, identify general trends and foster debate in the High Level Forum.

2. **KEY DETERMINANTS OF PRICE TRANSMISSION**

As explained in the Commission staff working document *Analysis of price transmission along the food supply chain in the EU* (28 October 2009),\(^5\) various factors influence the transmission of prices from one stage of the supply chain to the next. The main determinants of food prices are:

- the cost structure of food production: labour, energy and marketing costs all influence consumer prices, often more than the cost of raw agricultural products;
- the competitive structure of food production (varying degrees of horizontal concentration and vertical integration); and
- other factors, such as price-levelling behaviour, the perishable nature of some food products, imperfect information on price changes, public intervention, etc.

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5. See list of relevant initiatives in Annex 1.
3. PRICE DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

3.1. Development of main food production cost factors

3.1.1. Agricultural raw materials and processing

The FPMT allows any interested users easily to compare price trends for basic agricultural goods, and foodstuffs at the manufacturing stage (‘producer price’) and at retail level. In the nine years from May 2005 to May 2014, retail food prices increased by 25%, while prices at the manufacturing stage rose by 26%.

Figure 1 shows prices following positive trends at all stages of the supply chain. As highlighted in the 2009 Commission Communication (see footnote 2), changes in agricultural prices are passed on with some lag to wholesale (or ‘producer’) prices.

Figure 1: Food prices from farm to fork, EU-27

The FPMT enables users to carry out more specific analysis for more detailed product categories. For example, it shows that the 2008 spike in agricultural commodity prices was followed by an increase in bread prices at the retail level (see Figure 2). The subsequent drop in agricultural prices did not translate into a decrease in retail prices. This illustrates the ‘rockets and feathers’ phenomenon often observed in price fluctuations, whereby input price increases are passed on to output prices more visibly than input price decreases are.

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6 For the FPMT and in this document, ‘producer price’ means the output price of manufactured foodstuffs (factory gate price) sold on the domestic market.

7 Due to technical problems, agricultural price index series have been interrupted from December 2012 for several EU Member States and EU aggregates, and from December 2013 for other Member States, to the time of writing. Therefore, recent developments are not reflected here.

8 This assessment is based on relative changes (price indices). Full transmission of relative price changes does not mean that prices changes are fully transmitted in absolute terms — that is unlikely in a competitive market. One theoretical reason is that output prices for a given food supply chain operator are only part of the costs facing operators downstream in the supply chain, and those other costs may vary independently of agricultural commodity prices.
Consumer products are diverse and made of many different ingredients. The case of sugar-based products illustrates the intrinsic complexity of food price monitoring across a supply chain (see Figure 3).

The transmission of price changes along the supply chain is more visible for products that are based on one main ingredient. This is illustrated by the case of oils and fats (Figure 4).

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9 The use of different classifications at different stages of the supply chain might blur the interpretation of the results.
As well as EU-wide aggregated figures, the FPMT also provides insights at national level.\(^\text{10}\)

DG Agriculture and Rural Development closely monitors prices for agricultural goods and publishes a monthly Commodity Price Dashboard showing price developments for the most representative agricultural commodities (cereals, meats, milk and dairy products, rice, sugar and oilseeds) at EU level, as compared with consumer prices and world quotations. Monthly market prices for representative products are also collected from Member States and published, per Member State and EU average, with data going back to 1997.

Since April 2014, the European Milk Market Observatory (MMO) has provided the EU dairy sector with more transparency by disseminating market data and short-term analysis in a timely manner. The MMO publishes a comprehensive set of relevant data about the milk market, including the farm-gate milk price and the prices of the main dairy products. Figure 5 provides two examples of charts that can be found on its website.\(^\text{11}\)

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\(^{10}\) See Annex 2.

3.1.2. Labour cost and energy cost

Labour and energy costs are part of the cost structure of foodstuffs. Labour and energy prices are not currently reported in the FPMT but published by Eurostat in other databases.

Labour costs grew significantly in the European food manufacturing industry between 2005 and 2013 (see Figure 6). Gross wages and salaries rose by almost 20%, while the number of persons employed and the volume of hours actually worked fell by around 3%, due to the economic crisis.
Meanwhile, production volume grew at a slower pace (see Figure 7). Overall, the cost of labour per production unit (estimated as the ratio of gross wages and salaries to production volume) increased by 13% in the EU over this period. This may partly explain the upward trend in food prices.

However, since labour cost per production unit in the industry rose more slowly than retail food prices (13% vs 26%), the proportion of the final consumer price it accounted for shrank over the period under review.

Energy prices have also increased in recent years (see Figure 8). Between the second half of 2007\(^{12}\) and the first half of 2013, the electricity price paid by industry increased by 21% (for large consumers) to 29% (for smaller ones). Over the same period, gas prices increased by 32-37%, with a spike in 2008.

\(^{12}\) The methodology for producing energy price statistics changed in 2007.
In the absence of information on possible energy efficiency gains, it is impossible to assess the exact effect of energy price rises on food production costs. However, it is unlikely that energy efficiency has kept pace with prices. On the contrary, it seems likely that relative energy costs have increased, which would help explain the rise in food prices.

3.1.3. **Other costs**

Further work could be done on the possibility of adding information on other production and distribution costs, such as labour cost in agriculture and in distributive trade, the price of main inputs to agriculture, real estate or marketing costs.

3.1.4. **Impact of the economic crisis**

The illustrations above show that, at EU level, the food industry has proven relatively resilient to the economic crisis that started in 2008. Today, it is one of very few manufacturing sectors producing above pre-crisis levels.\(^\text{13}\)

While the crisis did temporarily affect production and input factors, the above analysis does not indicate that the crisis had a specific effect on prices or price transmission at various stages of the food supply chain as such. However, EU-wide averages hide very different national realities.

As regards labour input, for instance, the average reflects the fact that in many countries, wages increased steadily over the whole period (Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria and Finland) or at least until the economic crisis started (the Czech Republic, Spain, Croatia, Portugal and the United Kingdom). In Romania and Bulgaria, wage rises were particularly fast but slowed down considerably after the crisis. In other countries (in Latvia, for instance, and more particularly in Greece), the crisis led to significant wage cuts in the food industry.

The widely varying effects of the crisis on the food sector in individual Member States should be taken into account when analysing the situation at national level.

### 3.2. Developing the European Food Price Monitoring Tool

At the request of the European Parliament, the Commission has launched a pilot project on ‘Preparatory action — European farm prices and margins observatory’. This will seek to improve Eurostat’s existing FPMT in terms of coverage, quality, and technical and communicational aspects to produce a comprehensive price monitoring tool for agricultural commodity, producer and consumer prices along the food supply chain.

In particular the project will aim to:

- extend the coverage of the 17 food chains and corresponding products currently available. This could include import prices for food products and beverages;
- achieve better price comparability at each stage of the food supply chain within and between Member States;
- create a basis for integrating the FPMT in the regular production of multipurpose price statistics in the European Statistical System, including through the use of scanner data;
- identify and exploit any synergies with the work of national price observatories; and
- continue to make the observatory more user-friendly and transparent, including by means of a multilingual interface.

The project will make further advances in applying modern collection methods (scanner data, internet data, electronic devices) to food price chains and use appropriate compilation techniques to make the statistics more available. The total budget for the project is €2 million.

### 3.3. Findings from national price observatories on the functioning of the supply chain

Findings reported by national price observatories depend significantly on their nature, objectives and activities, in terms of data publication, methodologies and analysis.

In Belgium and Latvia, asymmetrical price developments were observed which may indicate imperfect competition.

The activities of the price observatories in France and Spain have contributed to stakeholder dialogue and mutual understanding.

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14 Supply chains considered for possible extension include: rice, bread, fish, butter, olive oil, fresh fruit, grapes, citrus fruit, nuts (baked), fresh vegetables other than potatoes, potato chips and crisps, jam, natural honey, chocolate, mineral water and soft drinks, fruit and vegetable juices, and wine.

15 Import prices could be approximated by average import unit values, based on Eurostat’s COMEXT database.
4. FOOD PRICE MONITORING AND CONSUMERS

4.1. Findings from national price observatories on consumer price developments

In Ireland, monitoring activities have improved competition. In some cases, price observatories can be used to guide policy intervention for consumer protection.

In Luxembourg, cross-border comparisons of consumer prices show differences for certain products which could result from a possible malfunctioning of the EU internal market.

4.2. Consumer Market Scoreboard and detailed average prices

The Consumer Market Scoreboard\(^1^6\) shows how the single market is performing for EU consumers and warns of potential problems.

The 10th edition of the Scoreboard should be released in 2014. As in 2013, the publication will include an analysis of price dispersion across the EU for over 150 products and services (including 57 food products), based on data collected by the European Statistical System under the detailed average prices (DAP) project.

4.3. Multi-purpose indicators / analytical indicators

In 2014, with the help of a contractor, Eurostat will develop a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators for assessing performances and price transmission mechanisms in the selected FPMT chains. This work will include associated precision estimates. In addition, a set of indicators to assess the meaningfulness of detailed average price-level data will be developed for the various selected products.

4.4. Prospects for possible use of scanner data

Recent research, notably the EU-funded Transfop project\(^1^7\) suggests that the use of scanner data for statistical and policy-making purposes, although technically challenging, may yield promising results.

In several European countries, retailers provide national statistical bodies with scanner data on a voluntary basis. In future, in the context of the revised Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP) framework, they will be legally obliged to do so. Such data are already used for instance to compile HICPs for food in the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and, from next year, in Denmark. Several other countries (e.g. Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Portugal and the United Kingdom) are testing the possibilities of using scanner data as a source.

Further work could look into the development of methodologies to integrate such data into standard price statistics collection at EU level, for instance to complement information on food inflation, to compare consumer prices and trends across geographical areas or to better understand retailers’ strategies and competition in the sector.

5. COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Economists argue that imperfect market information undermines competition. Greater price transparency is therefore expected to bring economic benefits for both businesses and consumers.

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\(^{17}\) [www.transfop.eu](http://www.transfop.eu).
However, price monitoring comes at a cost for certain stakeholders. Public administrations need to collect, check, store, process and publish data and analysis. Businesses incur reporting costs. Also, under certain specific circumstances (e.g. as have arisen in the German milk sector), full price transparency may harm competition. Such extreme cases should be avoided.

With this in mind, governments are likely to try to strike a balance between the costs and the benefits of improved market transparency. In 2013, a cost-effectiveness study commissioned by the Dutch government compared the costs and benefits of three different approaches to food price monitoring:

- food price monitoring (as performed in Germany and the Netherlands);
- food chain price monitoring (like the Belgian and European food prices monitoring tool); and
- price and cost monitoring (as done in Spain and France).

On the basis of the study, the Dutch government eventually decided to set up a food chain price observatory, which was launched in March 2014.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. On price monitoring in general

The volatility of agricultural commodity prices and the increase in consumer food prices over the past ten years have raised the expectations of stakeholders across the food supply chain. This has triggered the interest of policy-makers and led to new food price observatories being established across Europe. A cost-effectiveness analysis has demonstrated that such tools are justified. While activities should be tailored to local scale and context, there has also been an interest in sharing information on methodologies.

Considering the complexity of the sector, price transmission analysis may yield more operational conclusions if it forms part of broader multi-disciplinary analysis taking account of factors that affect the efficiency of the food supply chain but are not necessarily reflected in prices.

6.2. On national food price observatories

National food price observatories vary widely in nature and there may be a need to develop a common understanding of what an observatory is and what it does. Clear distinctions should be made between:

- basic national consumer price observatories, which provide basic information on price indices for specific categories of food product;
- more elaborate consumer price observatories, which enable the user to compare absolute price levels in various geographical areas or even at individual points of sale;
- food supply chain price observatories, which allow the user to compare price changes (indices) at various stages of the supply chain and may also provide more analytical indicators; and
- food supply chain price and cost observatories, which provide information not only on prices but also on the cost structure of specific product categories.
While consumer prices are observed and published in most European countries, **food supply chain price observatories** remain less common. To maintain efforts to develop such observatories, experts could be encouraged regularly to exchange views on methodologies and findings, and identify the causes of divergences in countries’ market situations.

### 6.3. On the European Food Price Monitoring Tool

With respect to the FPMT, the following improvements should be envisaged:

- **Data gaps** should be filled in, in particular as regards agricultural prices, which are currently lacking from early 2013 on, and producer prices, where confidentiality rules lead to occasional gaps;

- **Analytical indicators** should be developed in response to the needs of users (policy-makers, industry, NGOs, researchers, etc.), in areas where the underlying data are sufficiently robust;

- The question of whether the FPMT should go beyond price indices and include **absolute prices** is controversial. Price indices are useful for comparing relative trends in prices for various product categories, but they are not suitable for gauging changes in gross margins, which might be partially measured by absolute prices. However, price indices are the most appropriate statistical tool available for describing price changes for product categories with high internal variability, which include most foodstuffs when considered at European level. Absolute prices may be considered for some specific, relatively standard products (e.g. certain agricultural commodities) only and would probably be of only limited value for cross-supply-chain analysis;

- It should be possible to use the FPMT to compare food price indices directly with **labour and energy costs**, provided that such indicators enable the user to make meaningful comparisons (e.g. that they take into account for instance labour-related taxes and benefits, which differ across Member States); ideally, such cost analysis should be possible for each stage of the supply chain;

- Ways of adding information on **other food production and distribution costs**, such as the price of main inputs to agriculture, real estate or marketing costs, could be further explored; and

- Readability could be improved, e.g. by systematically indicating what the raw material, intermediate product and consumer product are, by avoiding potentially confusing terms (such as ‘producer’) or adding definitions wherever they appear, and by translating the tool into all EU languages.
## ANNEX 1
### NATIONAL FOOD PRICE OBSERVATORIES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Body</th>
<th>Context/Goal</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td><em>Institut des Comptes Nationaux</em> (Ministry of Economy)</td>
<td>The Belgian government decided to create a price observatory after inflation reached 5.9% in July 2008.</td>
<td>Reports quarterly and annually on prices.</td>
<td>Food, energy, services, industrial products.</td>
<td>statbel.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/organisation/icn/prix/index.jsp</td>
<td>In 2011, price transmission for milk, butter, pig meat, beef, pasta, coffee, baked products and chocolate was asymmetrical (a rise in costs had a rapid impact on consumer prices, while a fall in costs was hardly ever passed on). A microeconomic analysis was undertaken for some processed foods to determine the reasons for the asymmetry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural Market Information System</td>
<td>Enables the analysis of agricultural markets.</td>
<td>Provides weekly, monthly and annual data on prices of agricultural and food products at different stages and on costs of production (by region and average for the country).</td>
<td>Cereals, oilseeds, flour, bread, sugar, milk products, livestock, meat, eggs, fruit and vegetables, fish, etc.; at producer, wholesale and retail levels.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The System provides regular and <em>ad hoc</em> information to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food under a contract. Other users can obtain information on request (generally subject to a charge).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Food</td>
<td>Aims to enhance market transparency and help market operators.</td>
<td>Publishes weekly reports on selected food products, with commented data on wholesale and retail prices and margins.</td>
<td>Flour, sugar, sunflower oil, eggs, poultry and lamb meat.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mzh.government.bg">www.mzh.government.bg</a></td>
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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Food</td>
<td>Publishes periodic situation and outlook reports on main agricultural products (once or twice a year depending on the product). The reports include information and analysis on domestic and world supply, demand, trade and prices.</td>
<td>Cereals, sunflower, milk and milk products, poultry and eggs, red meat, fruit and vegetables, fish and aquaculture.</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.dksbt.bg">www.dksbt.bg</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Commission on Commodity Exchanges and Wholesale Markets</td>
<td>Regulates and controls the activity of the organised commodity markets. Maintains market price information system.</td>
<td>Collects and disseminates data on price developments for main agricultural commodities and food products observed on commodity exchanges and wholesale markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Agricultural Market Information Company (private company)</td>
<td>Observes and analyses the markets for commodities of agriculture.</td>
<td>Provides information to agricultural market players. Collects, processes, analyses and distributes prices and other market information.</td>
<td>Agricultural products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ami-informiert.de/ami-english.html">www.ami-informiert.de/ami-english.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German Farmers’ Association</td>
<td>Collect information from their members on the products in question.</td>
<td>Publishes studies.</td>
<td>Agricultural products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bauernverband.de">www.bauernverband.de</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>South German Butter and Cheese Stock Market</td>
<td>Reports weekly on quantity and price of butter and cheese.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Butter and cheese</td>
<td><a href="http://www.butterkaeseboers.de/start.html">www.butterkaeseboers.de/start.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>National Consumer Agency</td>
<td>Defence and promotion of consumer rights.</td>
<td>Regular consumer price surveys since July 2007.</td>
<td>146 branded products (in 2011), mainly groceries.</td>
<td><a href="http://corporate.nca.ie/eng/Research_Zone/price-surveys">corporate.nca.ie/eng/Research_Zone/price-surveys</a></td>
<td>Price surveys have contributed to significant changes in the grocery purchasing behaviour of shoppers in Ireland. Price, not convenience, is now the major driver. Survey results have shown increased competition, particularly in the branded market.</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
<td>General Secretariat for Commerce, Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping</td>
<td>Consumer price comparison tool.</td>
<td>A website allows consumers to compare prices for over 1500 products at 1000 points of sale.</td>
<td>Food, beverages, non-durable household goods, other appliances, articles and personal care products.</td>
<td>eprice.gr</td>
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<td>Market data reports have been published for each of the food products. 20 other studies have been carried out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>FranceAgriMer (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy)</td>
<td>Observatoire de la formation des prix et des marges set up to enhance transparency on the development of prices in the area of consumer goods, agriculture, and energy.</td>
<td>Carries out analyses to enhance transparency on price developments.</td>
<td>Food products and other consumer goods, agriculture, energy. Five food supply chains analysed in depth: fruit &amp; vegetables, dairy products, beef meat, pork meat and poultry.</td>
<td><a href="https://observatoire-prixmarges.franceagrimer.fr/Pages/default.aspx">https://observatoire-prixmarges.franceagrimer.fr/Pages/default.aspx</a></td>
<td>For consumer goods, it analyses the development of prices actually paid and those displayed in shops. For agricultural products, it tracks the prices of agricultural commodities and imports, farm-gate prices, consumer prices and margins. Every year, it publishes a report to the French Parliament on mechanisms of food price formation, which analyses margins and price transmission along food supply chains, especially for fruit, vegetables, dairy products, beef, pork and poultry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Trzisni informacijski sustav u poljoprivredi (Ministry of Agriculture)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Publishes prices and reports on purchases.</td>
<td>Livestock, meat, meat products, fruit, vegetables, fish, agricultural inputs, grains, oilseeds, raw milk, milk products and carcass purchases.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tisup.mps.hr">www.tisup.mps.hr</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Osservatorio Prezzi e Tariffe (Ministry of Economy)</td>
<td>Enables the analysis of food price development.</td>
<td>Publishes monthly prices of very specific products (minimum, maximum and average prices). Provides comparisons by consumer category and geographical area.</td>
<td>Basket of common household goods and services (a report in 2012 covered 14 food products).</td>
<td>osservaprezzi.sviluppoconomico.gov.it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Competition and consumer protection service (Ministry of Commerce)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitors food prices. Implements legislation in the field of consumer protection.</td>
<td>Food products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mcit.gov.cy/mcit/mcit.nsf/dmlprotection_en/dmlprotection_en?OpenDocument">www.mcit.gov.cy/mcit/mcit.nsf/dmlprotection_en/dmlprotection_en?OpenDocument</a></td>
<td>The protection of consumers’ economic interests is of great importance, as is clear from the current legislation on the correct description of goods and services (characteristics, price, weight, size, etc.), enabling consumers to exercise their right of choice.</td>
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<td>Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics</td>
<td>The Institute was first set up to collect and compile agricultural prices and trade volumes in the context of EU common market adjustment measures.</td>
<td>Monitors food prices, gathers facts and analyses economic developments in agricultural production and food market surveillance.</td>
<td>Agricultural products</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lvaei.lv">www.lvaei.lv</a></td>
<td>The Institute maintains the Farm Accountancy Data Network and analyses agriculture and food market promotion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Agricultural Information and Rural Business Centre (state-owned company)</td>
<td>In 2010, Lithuania’s Competition Council mandated the Centre to identify the reasons for the changes in food prices before 2010.</td>
<td>Collects, manages and publishes information from retail chains. Publishes prices (weekly) and price comparisons with the previous year.</td>
<td>Variable number of food products (between 17 and 52).</td>
<td><a href="http://www.produktukainos.lt">www.produktukainos.lt</a></td>
<td>The significant increase in retail food prices stemmed mostly from the increase in input prices. However, in some cases, when input prices fell, food prices decreased only very slightly. This was due to the high number of intermediaries operating in the food supply chain and differences in their negotiating power. However, the change in input prices alone does not fully account for the extent of the increase in the retail prices for dairy and grain products. The Competition Council concluded that food price variations may have emerged partly due to a decrease in competition and therefore launched a number of investigations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Observatoire de la formation des prix (Ministry of Economy and External Trade)</td>
<td>Monitors consumer prices, usually for aggregate product categories, and points out extreme price variations for specific products. Makes comparisons with neighbouring countries (BE, FR, DE, NL).</td>
<td>Monitors consumer prices, usually for aggregate product categories, and points out extreme price variations for specific products. Makes comparisons with neighbouring countries (BE, FR, DE, NL).</td>
<td>Non-durable goods (including food, petrol, etc.).</td>
<td><a href="http://www.odc.public.lu/activites/observatoire_de_la_formations_des_prix/index.html">www.odc.public.lu/activites/observatoire_de_la_formations_des_prix/index.html</a></td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Agricultural Institute, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Monitors prices.</td>
<td>Mainly cereals, including maize.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mgki.hu/start.php?lang=en">www.mgki.hu/start.php?lang=en</a></td>
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<td>Malta</td>
<td>Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority</td>
<td>Ensures the enhancement of consumer welfare.</td>
<td>Enforces competition policy (supply side) and consumer policy (demand side).</td>
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<td><a href="https://secure2.gov.mt/consumer/home?l=1">https://secure2.gov.mt/consumer/home?l=1</a></td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>LEI Wageningen UR (research institute)</td>
<td>Price observatory established in March 2014.</td>
<td>Publishes monthly price indices and regular analytical notes.</td>
<td>Wheat, potatoes and milk products; eggs; poultry, pig and beef meat.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agrimatie.nl">www.agrimatie.nl</a></td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>Pilot project launched in 2011 (on hold).</td>
<td>Exploratory rounds of discussion with stakeholders took place.</td>
<td>Possibly: Eggs, fattened chicken, potatoes, apples; drinking milk, long-shelf-life milk, beef and pork escalope, rye flour, wheat flour, rolls and brown bread.</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>The pilot project aims at establishing a national price monitoring tool and supporting stakeholder dialogue, with an approach similar to that taken in Spain and France. The project is on hold due to a lack of participation by distributive trade representatives.</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Food Supply Chain Monitoring Platform (PARCA)</td>
<td>To promote and guarantee transparency within the supply chain, to improve competition and increase domestic output.</td>
<td>Meets quarterly and works on improving relationships and promoting good practices among farmers, food manufacturing and food distribution. Reports on food supply chain prices, price indices and market transparency (farm products and foodstuffs).</td>
<td>All foodstuff supply chains.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpp.pt/parca">www.gpp.pt/parca</a> (Portuguese only)</td>
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<td>(public—private partnership)</td>
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<td>Statistics Portugal (INE) (public body)</td>
<td>National official statistics body</td>
<td>Publishes price indices for the different stages of the food supply chain (farm production, manufacturing, distribution and consumption).</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ine.pt">www.ine.pt</a> (Portuguese and English)</td>
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<td>Agricultural Markets Information System (Ministry of Agriculture and Sea)</td>
<td>Observes and analyses farm products and foodstuff markets. Provides market players with information.</td>
<td>Collects, processes and analyses (farm-gate, manufacturing and wholesale) prices and other market information. Publishes weekly/monthly prices and market analyses.</td>
<td>15 food chains (fruit, vegetables, olive oil and table olives, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry, eggs and dairy products, etc.).</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpp.pt/sima">www.gpp.pt/sima</a> (Portuguese only)</td>
<td>Reports were published in 2007.</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute (independent research institute under the Ministry of Agriculture)</td>
<td>Provides background material for agricultural economics decisions, economic development, decisions on farms and rural development.</td>
<td>Collects, processes and interprets data on agriculture, at farm level and macro-level.</td>
<td>Food products. Consumer, producer and wholesale prices.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nilf.no/english/Information_on_the_Norwegian_Agricultural_Economics_Research_Institute">www.nilf.no/english/Information_on_the_Norwegian_Agricultural_Economics_Research_Institute</a></td>
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ANNEX 2

FOOD PRICES FROM FARM TO FORK AT NATIONAL LEVEL