

# Sustainability of the Food System - Public Consultation

The aim of this consultation is to identify and assess policies and initiatives that could help make the production and consumption of food more sustainable. Please read the [associated web-page](#) before responding to the questionnaire.

Only a few of the questions are compulsory so please feel free to answer only those relevant to you. The consultation will remain open until the 1 October 2013.

**Please note:** once you start filling in this questionnaire, the maximum time allowed by the system to complete it is 90 minutes. Partial responses will not be saved. It is therefore a good idea to download the full questionnaire as a PDF and prepare your answers in advance. (it can be found on the consultation page [here](#))

Thank-you very much for taking the time to help with this consultation.

Questions marked with an asterisk \* require an answer to be given.

## 1. Information about yourself / your organisation

Your full name \*

Your contact email address

I am replying as a.....\*

- Interested individual
- Farmer / fishermen
- Association
- NGO
- Food manufacturer
- Food Retailer
- Food service provider (restaurant / catering etc.)
- Academic and/or scientist
- Local authority
- National authority
- International body
- Other

 Please specify

Please give the name of your association/organisation/authority etc. (if appropriate)



*If you are providing a response on behalf of an organisation, please give the name here.*

Country (or countries) of you or your organisation



*If you are representing a association, please specify the countries represented by the membership*

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AT - Austria        | <input type="checkbox"/> BE - Belgium  | <input type="checkbox"/> CY - Cyprus    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CZ - Czech Republic | <input type="checkbox"/> DE - Germany  | <input type="checkbox"/> DK - Denmark   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EE - Estonia        | <input type="checkbox"/> EL - Greece   | <input type="checkbox"/> ES - Spain     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FI - Finland        | <input type="checkbox"/> FR - France   | <input type="checkbox"/> HU - Hungary   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IE - Ireland        | <input type="checkbox"/> IT - Italy    | <input type="checkbox"/> LT - Lithuania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LU - Luxembourg     | <input type="checkbox"/> LV - Latvia   | <input type="checkbox"/> MT - Malta     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NL - Netherlands    | <input type="checkbox"/> PL - Poland   | <input type="checkbox"/> PT - Portugal  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SE - Sweden         | <input type="checkbox"/> SI - Slovenia | <input type="checkbox"/> SK - Slovakia  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UK - United Kingdom | <input type="checkbox"/> BG - Bulgaria | <input type="checkbox"/> RO - Romania   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other               |  |   |



Please specify

How would you prefer your contribution to be published on the Commission website?

\*

- Under the name indicated (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Anonymously (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Not at all – keep it confidential (My contribution will not be published, but it will be used internally within the Commission)

How well informed are you about the sustainable production and consumption of food?

- Very well informed
- Fairly well informed
- Not very well informed
- Not at all informed

## 2. Defining Sustainable Food

There are many different definitions of 'sustainable food', and this issue often emerges as an important starting point for discussion. What do you or your organisation think ?

Do you / your organisation think it is important to have an agreed definition of sustainable food?

- Yes
- No

Do you / does your organisation use a specific definition or specific criteria to guide your work?

- Yes
- No



What is the definition you use?

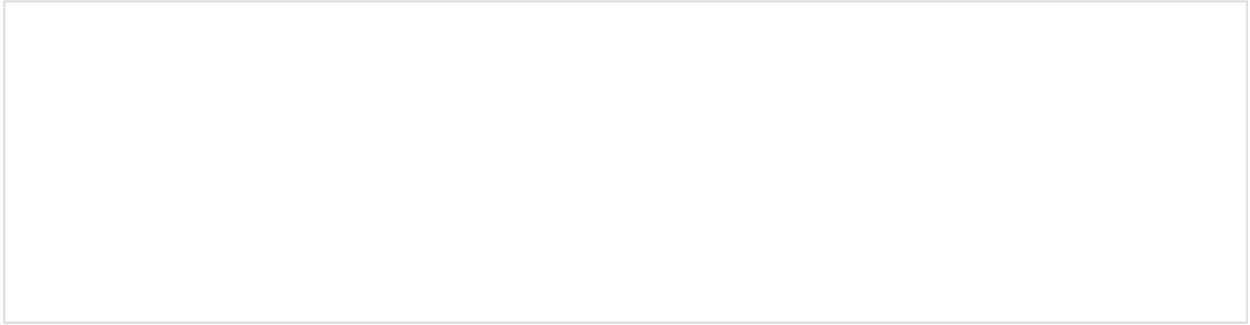
Which of the following issues do you think should be considered as falling within the scope of a strategy on the sustainability of the food system? (You may select more than one)

- Climate change
- Biodiversity and natural habitats
- Water scarcity
- Toxic emission to air and water (nitrogen / phosphorus)
- Soil degradation
- Food security (which means a combination of 'food availability' - having available sufficient quantities of food on a consistent basis, and 'food access' - having sufficient resources, both economic and physical, to obtain the appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.)
- Food price stability / impact of excessive food price volatility
- Employment
- Economic growth
- Competitiveness of the EU food sector
- Obesity and related chronic diseases prevention
- Malnutrition and under-nutrition
- Animal welfare
- Fair trade
- Other



Please specify

If you have any further comments to add on the subject of defining 'sustainable' in relation to food sustainability, please do so here.



### **3. Moving towards a more sustainable food system - identifying and assessing policy options**

The Commission has identified a number of potential actions that could be targeted for improving the sustainability of the food system. The aim of this consultation is to seek your views on how and why these actions might be prioritised and who would be best placed to take them forward. You will also be given the opportunity to propose other actions, and explain how your preferred options could be implemented.

The actions fall into the following categories:

- 3.1 Better technical knowledge on the environmental impacts of food;
- 3.2 Stimulating sustainable food production;
- 3.3 Promoting sustainable food consumption;
- 3.4 Reducing food waste and losses;
- 3.5 Improving food policy coherence.

#### **3.1. Better technical knowledge on the environmental impacts of food products**

How effective do you think the following actions could be in improving our technical knowledge of the environmental impacts of food products?

- a: Very
- b: Fairly
- c: Not particularly
- d: Not at all
- e: Don't know

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Develop a <u>standardised methodology</u> for measuring the environmental impacts of food products.	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Make <u>data</u> on the environmental impacts of food <u>more transparent and accessible</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Develop <u>technical guidance</u> on how to identify more sustainable food products	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Develop <u>sustainability criteria</u> for specific food products.	<input type="radio"/>				
e. <u>Quantify</u> in economic terms, the <u>environmental and social costs associated with food</u> products or diets (i.e. any hidden costs or 'externalities')	<input type="radio"/>				

Do you have any other proposals for actions aimed at improving our technical knowledge on food products? If so, please specify here.

Do you think that any specific food product categories should be prioritised for action? If so, please specify the product group and explain why this should be seen as a priority.

At what level do you think these actions would be best taken forward?

- a: Global
- b: EU
- c: National
- d: Local
- e: Action not needed

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Develop a <u>standardised methodology</u> for measuring the environmental impacts of food products.	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Make <u>data</u> on the environmental impacts of food more <u>transparent and accessible</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Develop <u>technical guidance</u> on how to identify more sustainable food products	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Develop <u>sustainability criteria</u> for specific food products.	<input type="radio"/>				
e. <u>Quantify</u> in economic terms, the <u>environmental and social costs associated with food products or diets</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				

For any other actions you have suggested, at what level do you think they would be best taken forward? (Global / EU / National / Local)

Please give any further details of how you would implement your preferred action/s.

Which out of these actions (including any of your suggestions) would you give the highest priority for the European Commission to take forward, and why?

Do you have any quantitative information concerning the benefits and costs of implementing these actions? If so, please give details here. (You may include links or upload relevant documents if you wish.)

### 3.2. Stimulating sustainable food production

In terms of stimulating more sustainable food production, how effective could it be to undertake actions to promote/support the following?

- a: Very
- b: Fairly
- c: Not particularly
- d: Not at all
- e: Don't know

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Regional, wholesale markets.	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Seasonally produced food.	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Diversification of cultivated species.	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Productive, intensive agriculture.	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Extensive, integrated agriculture.	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Organic production.	<input type="radio"/>				
g. Sustainable sourcing of key food commodities.	<input type="radio"/>				
h. Higher animal welfare standards.	<input type="radio"/>				

Do you have any other proposals for actions aimed at helping to make food production more sustainable? If so, please specify here.

## At what level do you think these actions would be best taken forward?

- a: Global
- b: EU
- c: National
- d: Local
- e: Producer
- f: Retailer
- g: Action not needed

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
a. Regional, wholesale markets.	<input type="radio"/>						
b. Seasonally produced food.	<input type="radio"/>						
c. Diversification of cultivated species.	<input type="radio"/>						
d. Productive, intensive agriculture.	<input type="radio"/>						
e. Extensive, integrated agriculture.	<input type="radio"/>						
f. Organic production.	<input type="radio"/>						
g. Sustainable sourcing of key food commodities.	<input type="radio"/>						
h. Higher animal welfare standards.	<input type="radio"/>						

For any other actions you have suggested, at what level do you think they would be best taken forward? (Global / EU / National / Local / Retailer / Producer)

Please give any further details of how you would implement your preferred action/s

Which out of these actions (including any of your suggestions) would you give the highest priority for the European Commission to take forward, and why?

Do you have any quantitative information concerning the benefits and costs of implementing these actions? If so, please give details here. You may include links or upload relevant documents.

### **3.3. Promoting sustainable food consumption**

In your view, how effective could the following actions be in promoting sustainable food consumption?

- a: very
- b: Fairly
- c: Not particularly
- d: Not at all
- e: Don't know

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Agreeing a common set of <u>guideling principles</u> of what constitutes 'sustainable' diet.	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Develop ideas for food <u>labelling schemes</u> and/or <u>on-package information</u> highlighting more sustainable choices.	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Run <u>information campaigns</u> on the environmental impacts of different food choices.	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Promote more sustainable food choices in retail outlets by <u>increasing their availability/accessibility</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Assess the scope for using <u>personal technology</u> for accessing information, e.g. smart phone apps, bar code readers, etc	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Develop and encourage the use of <u>Green Public Procurement</u> guidelines, to help public bodies (or private organisations) purchase food sustainably.	<input type="radio"/>				

Do you have any other proposals for actions aimed at helping to promoting sustainable food consumption? If so, please specify here.



For any other actions you have suggested, at what level do you think they would be best taken forward? (Global / EU / National / Local / Retailer / Producer)

Please give any further details of how you would implement your preferred action/s.

Which out of these actions (including any of your suggestions) would you give the highest priority for the European Commission to take forward, and why?

Do you have any quantitative information concerning the benefits and costs of implementing these actions? If so, please give details here. You may include links or upload relevant documents.

### 3.4. Preventing and reducing Food Losses & Food Waste

## How effective do you think the following actions could be in preventing and reducing food losses & food waste?

- a: Very
- b: Fairly
- c: Not particularly
- d: Not at all
- e: Don't know

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Develop/disseminate <u>consumer information</u> on avoiding <u>over-purchasing</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Develop/disseminate <u>consumer information</u> on the meaning of food <u>date labels</u> . ('best-before', 'use-by', 'sell-by')	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Develop/disseminate <u>consumer information</u> on better <u>storage</u> of food.	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Develop/disseminate <u>consumer information</u> on more sustainable food <u>preparation</u> and <u>use of leftovers</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Establish new <u>education campaigns</u> on food waste prevention aimed at <u>children</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Establish new <u>education campaigns</u> on food waste prevention aimed at <u>adults</u> .	<input type="radio"/>				
g. Facilitate the <u>exchange of good practices</u> on food waste prevention and reduction activities at all levels: producers, retailers as well as local, regional and national authorities.	<input type="radio"/>				
h. Clarify the <u>EU VAT Directive for donation</u> of surplus food to food banks for Member States and businesses.	<input type="radio"/>				
i. Encourage best-practice in relation to <u>food date labels</u> by food business operators to minimise wastage.	<input type="radio"/>				

j. Develop EU Food Donation Guidelines for food donors and food banks on how to comply with the EU Food Hygiene legislation (types of food suitable for donation, conditions for transport and traceability, legal liability, etc.)



k. Agree a common EU definition of food waste, classifying products as food, feed or waste etc. as appropriate.



l. Develop a standardised methodology for collecting and reporting data on food waste to ensure data comparability across Member States.



m. Introduce reporting requirements on food waste.



n. Set binding targets for food waste prevention.



Do you have any other proposals for actions on preventing and reducing food losses & food waste? If so please specify here.

At what level do you think these actions would be best taken forward?

- a: Global
- b: EU
- c: National
- d: Local
- e: Producer
- f: Retailer
- g: Action not needed

a      b      c      d      e      f      g

a. Develop/disseminate consumer information on avoiding over-purchasing.



b. Develop/disseminate consumer information on the meaning of food date labels. ('best-before', 'use-by', 'sell-by')



c. Develop/disseminate consumer information on better storage of food.



d. Develop/disseminate consumer information on more sustainable food preparation and use of leftovers.



e. Establish new education campaigns on food waste prevention aimed at children.



f. Establish new education campaigns on food waste prevention aimed at adults.



g. Facilitate the exchange of good practices on food waste prevention and reduction activities at all levels: producers, retailers as well as local, regional and national authorities.



h. Clarify the EU VAT Directive for donation of surplus food to food banks for Member States and businesses.



i. Encourage best-practice in relation to food date labels by food business operators to minimise wastage.



j. Develop EU Food Donation Guidelines for food donors and food banks on how to comply with the EU Food Hygiene legislation (types of food suitable for donation, conditions for transport and traceability, legal liability, etc.)



k. Agree a common EU definition of food waste, classifying products as food, feed or waste etc. as appropriate.



l. Develop a standardised methodology for collecting and reporting data on food waste to ensure data comparability across Member States.



m. Introduce reporting requirements on food waste.



n. Set binding targets for food waste prevention.



For any other actions you have suggested, at what level do you think they would be best taken forward? (Global / EU / National / Local / Retailer / Producer)

Please give any further details of how you would implement your preferred action/s.

Which out of these actions (including any of your suggestions) would you give the highest priority for the European Commission to take forward, and why?

Do you have any quantitative information concerning the benefits and costs of implementing these actions? If so, please give details here. You may include links or upload relevant documents.

Are there any key initiatives you are undertaking or that you are aware of in the area of preventing/reducing food losses and food waste that you would like to share? (these could form part of a 'best practice' reference.)

Do you have economic and/or quantitative data related to food losses and food waste? If so, please provide details and/or links to your information here.....(you may upload files with this question)

### **3.4.1. Preventing food waste and losses in developing countries**

What initiatives are you already undertaking, or are you aware of, in the area of reducing food waste and losses internationally?

What actions / policies do you think the EU should prioritise to help prevent food waste and losses in developing countries?

### 3.5. Improving food policy coherence

This section looks at the overall framework in which food policy is made, rather than about the development of specific policies, and seeks your views on whether it is fit to tackle the challenge of making the food system sustainable in the future. Are we 'locked-in' to the path currently being followed by our food system? Is there a need to reconcile the competing dominant 'agro-industrial' and the emerging 'integrated territorial agro-food' paradigms? What sort of policy responses do these issues require from the EU?

Do you think the way our food system is set up is suitable to equip it for future challenges?

- yes
- no
- don't know

If you would like to give more details in relation to your answer, please do so here.

 What do you think are the most important aspects of the food system that would need to be addressed to make it more sustainable? (such as, for example, production methods, consumption patterns, research priorities, policy framework, market set-up, etc...)

Do you think there are any inconsistencies / incoherence between policies related to food production and consumption?

- yes
- no
- don't know

 Please specify.

Do you think there are any regulatory, or other, barriers to sustainable food production and/or consumption?

- yes
- no
- don't know



Please specify.



How would you propose we address any policy inconsistencies or regulatory barriers that you have mentioned in the previous two question?

Do you have examples of good practice to share that demonstrate a more sustainable approach to food system governance? (i.e. where, for example, the typical relationship between producers, retailers, consumers, policy makers etc. has been changed somehow.)

How do you think the overall governance of the food system could be adapted in order to ensure more coherent action at EU level?

In your view, how effective could the following actions be in providing better policy coherence for the production and consumption of food?

- a: Very
- b: Fairly
- c: Not particularly
- d: Not at all
- e: Don't know

	a	b	c	d	e
a. Perform a comprehensive <u>review</u> of relevant food policies (International/EU/National/local) to check that they are aligned with each other, that they are coherent, and are <u>in line with agreed sustainability goals</u> . (Also known as a 'fitness check')	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Support national and local food system governance by <u>sharing good practices</u> / <u>provide guidance</u> on implementing sustainable food strategies.	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Identify <u>environmentally harmful subsidies</u> (EHS) in the food sector.	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Establish <u>new coordination bodies</u> (or reorganise existing bodies) to provide coherence on in the field of food sustainability.	<input type="radio"/>				

Do you have any other proposals for actions on improving food policy coherence?

Please give details of how you are, or would, implement your preferred option/s.

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