



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 05.02.2022*

*C(2022) 793 final*

*Dear President,*

*The European Commission would like to thank the Assemblée nationale for its Opinion on food safety in the EU and welcomes its broad support for the Commission's general food legislation package, its working methods of risk assessment, management and communication, as well as the work of the European Food Safety Authority.*

*The Commission notes the concerns expressed by the Assemblée nationale as regards the monitoring and traceability of agri-food products, the information given to consumers, the prevention of food fraud, the funding of the European Food Safety Authority and the challenges raised by new technologies or globalisation of the market.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in the annex of this reply address the issues raised by the Assemblée nationale and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Stella Kyriakides  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Richard Ferrand  
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## Annex

*The Commission has carefully considered each of the issues raised by the Assemblée nationale in its Opinion and is pleased to offer the following clarifications.*

### *On the traceability of agri-food products and the information given to consumers:*

*The Commission notes that a general traceability requirement for safety purposes for both food and feed is laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002<sup>1</sup> establishing the general principles and general requirements of food law, which consists of ‘one step back – one step forward’ traceability. The ‘one step back’ part of the traceability requirement for safety purposes allows the identification of the source of the risk, while the ‘one step forward’ allows the identification of the unsafe batches, lots or consignments. The Regulation does not require internal traceability, which is ultimately a business decision. This was also to provide the necessary flexibility, taking into account that the food sector is dominated in numbers by small and medium-sized enterprises, including micro-businesses.*

*The Commission would like to refer to Article 6.3 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004<sup>2</sup> as regards approval of establishments. Such approval is required when laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004<sup>3</sup> (in particular in its Article 4.2) or by a decision adopted by the Commission (the only case is Commission Regulation (EU) No 210/2013<sup>4</sup> for establishments producing sprouts). In this regard, the Commission notes the recent amendment by the European Parliament and the Council of that Regulation with a view to remove the obligation of approval of certain small establishments producing meat products from poultry or rabbit, which is applicable since 1 January 2021. Approval may also be required under the national law of a Member State in which the establishment is located. Apart from such cases where approval is required under EU law, it is up to national authorities to impose or not such a requirement.*

*The Commission acknowledges the need for good coordination between the IT systems in the field of food and feed safety, and points to Article 131 of the Official Controls*

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety – OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R0178&qid=1637789504638>

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs – OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1-54, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0852&qid=1637789619058>

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin – OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55-205, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0853&qid=1637790064998>

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 210/2013 of 11 March 2013 on the approval of establishments producing sprouts pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council Text with EEA relevance – OJ L 68, 12.3.2013, p. 24-25, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R0210>

*Regulation<sup>5</sup>, setting up the 'Information management system for official controls (IMSOC)', and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 ('the IMSOC Regulation')<sup>6</sup>. After consolidating the elements of IMSOC, the Commission will endeavour to develop the system according to the latest developments in data use and management. This will finally also improve the interoperability between the TRACES system for sanitary and phytosanitary certification and the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Assemblée nationale for the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products, as announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy<sup>7</sup>, adopted by the Commission on 20 May 2020. The Commission acknowledges that there is a growing demand from consumers to know the origin of their foods. The preparation of the different actions announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy, including the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products, is a priority for the Commission. The Commission is working to ensure that a proposal for the revision of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011<sup>8</sup> on the provision of food information to consumers will be ready at the end of 2022, as also announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy.*

*The Commission has taken note with interest of the Assemblée nationale's call for the establishment of a QR code that would allow consumers to have information on the traceability of food products without overloading labels. To this end, the Commission draws the attention of the Assemblée nationale to the findings of the Fitness Check of the General Food Law<sup>9</sup> – a comprehensive evaluation of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, which*

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) - OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1-142, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>

<sup>6</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components (the IMSOC Regulation), OJ L 261, 14.10.2019, p. 37-96, [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2019/1715/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1715/oj)

<sup>7</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (COM(2020) 381 final), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0381>

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004 Text with EEA relevance – OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18-63, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011R1169&qid=1637790182058>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics/general-food-law/fitness-check-general-food-law\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/horizontal-topics/general-food-law/fitness-check-general-food-law_en)

was published in 2018 – pursuant to which no systemic cases of failures have been identified in terms of traceability for safety purposes.

On the organisation and means allocated to checks and to national health surveillance authorities:

*The Commission is aware of the need to keep up with the rapid technological development, for maintaining food and feed safety in the EU. The ‘Information management system for official controls’ (IMSOC) creates the basis for the use of, for example, artificial intelligence, and the Commission has the intention to move forward in this area as well.*

*The subject of a “European Health Police” inevitably touches upon the subsidiarity principle. The fight against food fraud is the responsibility of each Member State and the Commission already engages in investigations with Member States, OLAF and EUROPOL.*

*Some actions are coordinated at EU level. They either take the form of broad actions (for example, coordinated controls about COVID-19-related false claims on food supplements sold online, authenticity of certain spices, unauthorised use of bamboo fibres in kitchenware) or of more specific individual actions using wherever possible the OLAF investigative capacity.*

*The Commission is of the opinion that the rules on official controls – the Official Controls Regulation and a range of sectoral tertiary legislation – provide enough powers of control to ensure high levels of food and feed safety in the EU. This includes the obligation for all exporting third countries to submit annually residue monitoring programmes for each food of animal origin exported. In addition, the EU has the necessary tools allowing it to take safeguard measures (including import bans) if needed.*

*Member States are responsible for the implementation of these rules, as well as for equipping themselves with the most appropriate technical tools for their control activities. As such, also the financial resources invested in these activities are those of the Member States. Nevertheless, the Official Controls Regulation provides for the collection of fees so that “adequate financial resources are available to provide the staff and other resources necessary for the competent authorities to perform official controls and other official activities”.*

*As regards controls of products imported from third countries, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 of 22 October 2019<sup>10</sup> – setting out frequency of controls at entry into the EU, and other conditions – is regularly reviewed in order to take into account new information related to risks and non-compliances.*

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<sup>10</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 of 22 October 2019 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/625 and (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No 669/2009, (EU) No 884/2014, (EU) 2015/175, (EU) 2017/186 and (EU) 2018/1660 – OJ L 277, 29.10.2019, p. 89-129, [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2019/1793/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1793/oj)

*The Official Controls Regulation also allows competent authorities to publish information about the rating of individual operators based on the outcome of official controls. The implementation of the relevant provisions is linked to administrative arrangements at national level and to the scope of the protection of commercial interests. The Commission considers that the harmonised provisions in the Regulation, to which all Member States and the European Parliament agreed, are an adequate response to concerns regarding transparency voiced by the Assemblée nationale.*

*On the link between the common agricultural policy and general food legislation:*

*The Commission would like to note that Regulation (EC) No 178/2002<sup>11</sup> on general food law has a broad scope covering the entire food chain. It applies to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed. As such, it also covers primary production, with the exception of primary production for private domestic use or domestic preparation, handling or storage of food for private domestic consumption. The objective of that Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and consumers' interest in relation to food, taking into account in particular the diversity in the supply of food including traditional products, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market. It establishes common principles and responsibilities, the means to provide a strong science base, and efficient organizational arrangements and procedures to underpin decision-making in matters of food and feed safety.*

*The Farm to Fork Strategy aims at transforming the EU food system as a whole into a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly one. The Strategy takes an integrated approach: it sets out a long-term strategic vision to transform the way we produce, distribute and consume food. It highlights the need for food-chain innovation to address the three dimensions of sustainability, namely the environmental, social and economic ones. It proposes initiatives that concern all sectors and actors of the food system. Primary producers, the food and beverage sector, supermarkets, the hospitality sector and consumers, should equally contribute to making the EU food system sustainable, while not compromising on food safety and security.*

*The flagship initiative of the Farm to Fork Strategy is a framework legislation for an EU sustainable food system, which the Commission intends to adopt in 2023. The objective of this framework legislation is to mainstream sustainability in all food-related policies and promote policy coherence at EU and national level. Following broad consultation and impact assessment during 2022, the Commission will work on common definitions and general principles and requirements for sustainable food systems and foods.*

*With the aim to further integrate agriculture with downstream needs, one of the specific objectives of the common agricultural policy post-2023 is to improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health. This includes high quality, safe, and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, the reduction of food waste, as well as*

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<sup>11</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety – OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R0178&qid=1637790418677>

*improving animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistances. For the first time, and in line with the call by the Assemblée nationale, there is a specific objective to clarify the close link between agriculture and food and the importance for Member States to plan ambitious common agricultural policy interventions to ensure that the objective is met.*

*On scientific expertise relating to food safety:*

*Regulation (EC) No 178/2002<sup>12</sup> on general food law establishes the “risk analysis” principle in the EU food law, consisting of three separate but interrelated components, i.e. risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Under the same Regulation, EU “risk assessment” – defined as a scientifically based process consisting of four steps: hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation – is entrusted to the European Food Safety Authority (Authority). Indeed, the Authority’s mission, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, is to provide scientific advice and scientific and technical support for the EU legislation and policies in all fields that have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety.*

*This includes the risk assessment – in terms of safety – of chemicals used for food/feed production, in food contact materials or which may occur adventitiously and specifically considers the exposures and risk characterisation resulting from the use of the chemicals in food and feed production, which are pertinent for deciding upon proportionate and appropriate risk management decisions.*

*It is pertinent to mention that in the context of the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, the Commission has committed to improve coherence among EU regulatory systems and maximise synergies between EU Agencies to reduce the presence of harmful chemicals in consumer products. In this regard, it is being considered the establishment of a ‘One Substance, One Assessment process’ that will assess the safety of chemicals for all their uses, where it is likely that ECHA will play a central role in the hazard assessment of chemicals, while EFSA would continue to assess the risks linked to their use in food/feed, including essential uses, which are highly specific compared to those for other uses of chemicals. The ongoing Impact Assessment for the revision of the legislation on Food Contact Materials will consider this commitment and the ways to implement it in practice.*

*The Commission notes that Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain<sup>13</sup> is a targeted amendment of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of general food law and eight sectoral legislative acts. It aims at increasing the transparency of the EU risk assessment in the food chain, on*

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<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety – OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002R0178&qid=1637790634618>

<sup>13</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 2065/2003, (EC) No 1935/2004, (EC) No 1331/2008, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18/EC (Text with EEA relevance) – OJ L 231, 6.9.2019, p.1, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R1381&qid=1637790521066>

*strengthening the reliability, objectivity and independence of the studies used by the European Food Safety Authority, and revisiting the governance of the European Food Safety Authority in order to ensure its long-term sustainability.*

*The EU food law is based on the fundamental principle that the burden to prove compliance with EU requirements (including safety requirements) lies with food and feed business operators. The underlying reasoning is that public money should not be used to carry out studies that will, in the end, help industry put a product on the market for profit purposes. This principle has been maintained by the recent Regulation (EU) 2019/1381.*

*The Commission would also like to recall that, following the entry into force of the Transparency Regulation, the annual budget of the European Food Safety Authority has been considerably increased (i.e. by EUR 62.5 million) and supported additional human resources (i.e. 106 additional posts).*

*The Commission is also pleased that the Assemblée nationale shares the view that a high level of food safety should go hand in hand with innovative developments to produce novel foods and foods containing mixtures/cocktails of food that contain or consist of nanomaterials. The recent safety evaluations and authorisations of insect species as novel foods, the risk assessment of the food additive titanium dioxide containing particles at the nanoscale, the evaluations of novel foods containing mixtures/cocktails of chemicals coming either from synthetic processes or from natural (mainly plant) origin, and the recently updated guidance on the risk assessment of nanomaterials or materials that may contain a fraction of small particles, including nanoparticles in foods, are just a few examples of the European Food Safety Authority's efforts to always stay abreast of technological developments and the Commission's commitment to ensure a high level of food safety and health protection.*

*The Commission is also pleased to inform the Assemblée nationale of the valuable role and contributions to the European Food Safety Authority's work by a number of French scientific experts, who participate as independent experts in the Authority's Panels and Working groups. Last but not least, the Commission is also pleased to underline the valuable collaboration between the European Food Safety Authority and the French Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail on a number of scientific and technical issues on food safety, the most recent being the risk assessment of titanium dioxide.*

#### *On food education and food waste:*

*The Commission would like to note that consumer education is a matter of national competence and many Member States strive to integrate the food waste theme in school programmes as well as professional trainings (for employees, food business operators, etc.). However, EU funding instruments and related programmes (Interreg Europe, LIFE Environmental Programme, Horizon Europe, etc.) can support the development of innovative educational programmes on the ground, either at national, regional or local level.*

*For instance, with support of the LIFE Environmental Programme, the TRIFOCAL project<sup>14</sup> has sought to integrate messages related to healthy diets and food waste prevention. Another LIFE project, Wasteless<sup>15</sup>, developed and implemented a school education programme on food waste prevention in Hungary, in parallel with a national consumer awareness campaign. The STREFOWA project<sup>16</sup>, funded through the Interreg Europe programme, organised a competition for the best food waste reduction educational initiatives carried out in schools across five central European countries.*

*Findings from consumer behaviour research, carried out under the Horizon 2020 REFRESH project<sup>17</sup>, have supported development of both public and private consumer-oriented initiatives to prevent food waste.*

*The Commission is currently implementing a two-year pilot project, the European Consumer Food Waste Forum, in order to prevent consumer food waste, which accounts for over half of food waste generated in the EU. This multi-disciplinary forum brings together researchers and practitioners to find solutions and develop tools to help reduce consumer food waste. They can be used and adapted as needed by the relevant actors in the Member States–.*

*As part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission is currently reviewing the EU school scheme to enhance its contribution to sustainable food consumption and, in particular, to strengthen educational messages on the importance of healthy nutrition, sustainable food production and reduction of food waste. A stakeholder consultation and a public event will be organised during 2022 and further inputs are welcome.*

*The Commission notes that, to be effective, food waste prevention requires targeted measures and actions to address specific issues which may vary according to the national situation. Regulatory authorities in close collaboration with food chain operators – farmers, manufacturers, retailers, food banks and consumers – are best placed to define targeted action to prevent and reduce food waste.*

*As part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission established, in 2016, the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste<sup>18</sup>. This multi-stakeholder platform, brings together both public and private entities, provides fora and tools to exchange experience and promotes best practices. The Platform has supported all actors in identifying and implementing appropriate actions to take at national, regional and local levels, formulating key recommendations for action in food waste prevention<sup>19</sup> at each stage of the food supply chain (December 2019).*

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<sup>14</sup> <http://trifocal.eu.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://maradeknelkul.hu/en/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.reducefoodwaste.eu/education-award-2019.html>

<sup>17</sup> <https://eu-refresh.org/refresh-video-reducing-consumer-food-waste.html>

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste/eu-actions-against-food-waste/eu-platform-food-losses-and-food-waste\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste/eu-actions-against-food-waste/eu-platform-food-losses-and-food-waste_en)

<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-05/fs\\_eu-actions\\_action\\_platform\\_key-rcmnd\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-05/fs_eu-actions_action_platform_key-rcmnd_en.pdf)



*According to the assessment of progress made in implementing the Council conclusions on food losses and food waste, under the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union<sup>20</sup>, Member States have benefited from the exchange of information and experience made possible by the Platform, which have often inspired further action at national level. In order to benefit from the Platform's continued support, the Commission has decided to re-establish this forum for a second mandate as of January 2022.*

*On 29 September 2021, the Commission also launched the EU Food Loss and Waste Prevention Hub<sup>21</sup> on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. This digital tool provides a one-stop-shop for all stakeholders interested in exchanging knowledge and experience in food loss and waste prevention, and includes a section dedicated to policies implemented in the EU Member States.*

*The Commission would like to draw the attention of the Assemblée nationale that it was stressed in the Farm to Fork Strategy that the misunderstanding and misuse of the “use by” and “best before” dates leads to food waste. Hence, the Commission intends to submit a legislative proposal to revise the EU rules on date marking by the end of 2022.*

*In this respect, the Commission is carrying out an impact assessment, which includes a public consultation, as well as conducting consumer research to support the proposal. The findings of the consumer research will inform the Commission on how consumers understand and use date markings and will allow to identify possible new ways of expressing date markings (e.g. changes in terminology and/or format). Member State experts will be closely associated with this study including the definition of possible new forms of expression of date markings to be tested through quantitative consumer research carried out throughout the EU.*

*An external study supporting the impact assessment was launched in August 2021 and it is expected to run for nine months. In parallel, in order to support consistency in date marking practices, the European Food Safety Authority has developed a tool to help food business operators decide when to apply the “use by” or “best before” date to their products.*

*In the Commission's view, action at EU level must bring EU added value, build on and complement local, regional and national initiatives that ensure effective change on the ground.*

*The Commission is committed to reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 12.3 of halving per capita food waste at retail and consumer level by 2030. Since 2015, the Commission has undertaken considerable action to drive the EU's progress towards the SDG Target 12.3, firstly through a dedicated action plan laid down in the Circular Economy Action Plan, followed by the Farm to Fork Strategy.*

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<sup>20</sup> Food losses and food waste: assessment of progress made in implementing the Council conclusions adopted on 28 June 2016, November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-01/fw\\_lib\\_council\\_food-losses-food-waste\\_2016\\_rev-2020.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-01/fw_lib_council_food-losses-food-waste_2016_rev-2020.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu-food-loss-waste-prevention-hub/)

*The Commission stresses that measurement is critical to food waste prevention, as it ensures a clear evidence base on which to build effective strategies. As part of the Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>22</sup>, the Commission has revised EU waste legislation<sup>23</sup>, which requires Member States to implement national food waste prevention programmes and, importantly, to reduce food waste at each stage of the supply chain in line with SDG target 12.3, as well as to monitor and report on food waste levels according to a common EU methodology<sup>24</sup>.*

*The Farm to Fork Strategy will further step up EU actions to reduce food loss and waste. The Commission intends to propose in 2023 legally binding targets to reduce food waste across the EU in order to give clear direction of travel and accelerate progress towards the global target of halving food waste by 2030.*

*The Commission will also consider further opportunities to integrate food loss and waste prevention as part of relevant EU policies. In this regard, the Commission has recently introduced amendments to EU food hygiene rules<sup>25</sup> in order to lay down certain requirements to promote and facilitate food donation, whilst guaranteeing its safety for consumers. In 2017, the Commission adopted EU food donation guidelines<sup>26</sup> in order to facilitate the recovery and redistribution of safe, edible food to those in need and adopted, in 2020, further guidance<sup>27</sup> on food safety management systems for food retail activities, including food donations.*

*The Commission will also investigate and explore ways of preventing food losses at the production stage, and continue to mobilise all players by encouraging implementation of the recommendations for action of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste.*

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<sup>22</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy (COM(2015) 614 final) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52015DC0614>

<sup>23</sup> Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Text with EEA relevance), PE/11/2018/REV/2, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018L0851>

<sup>24</sup> Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/1597 of 3 May 2019 supplementing Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste (Text with EEA relevance.), C/2019/3211 – OJ L 248, 27.9.2019, p. 77-85, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L.2019.248.01.0077.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2019%3A248%3ATOC>

<sup>25</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste/eu-actions-against-food-waste/food-donation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-waste/eu-actions-against-food-waste/food-donation_en)

<sup>26</sup> Commission notice — EU guidelines on food donation, C/2017/6872 – OJ C 361, 25.10.2017, p. 1-29, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52017XC1025\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52017XC1025(01))

<sup>27</sup> Commission Notice providing guidance on food safety management systems for food retail activities, including food donations 2020/C 199/01 – OJ C 199, 12.6.2020, p. 1-57, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C.2020.199.01.0001.01.ENG>