

ENRD Thematic Group on Sustainability Agreements

First meeting

Agenda

17 March 2022

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023-2027 supports efforts to increase sustainability in the production and supply of agricultural products through amended support mechanisms and market rules. Collective initiatives leading to agreements between actors in the agri-food supply chain have the potential to make a significant contribution to a sustainable food system, ensuring that actors in the food value chain (vertically or horizontally) collaborate effectively to deliver agreed outcomes and ultimately contribute to the achievement of the desired goals. For this reason, the new CAP contains an antitrust derogation to the prohibition of anti-competitive agreements. This derogation does not encompass all possible areas of collective sustainability initiatives and stakeholders have the possibility to cooperate on other aspects of sustainability outside of the derogation's scope of application under the regime of general competition rules.


Whatever their objectives, collective sustainability initiatives raise a number of challenges in terms of governance, design of objectives and standards, possible public support, etc. The future development of such initiatives depends on the knowledge and ability of stakeholders to manage these challenges.

This is the first meeting of the ENRD Thematic Group (TG) on Sustainability Agreements, which is launched with the ambition to provide the space for exchanges on good practices around collective actions on sustainability agreements and sustainable actions more generally.

Aims of the meeting

- To take stock of the new regulatory framework for sustainability agreements and implications for business, the environment, and the consumer.
- To understand how sustainability agreements/collective actions on sustainability are pursued through the food value chain.
- Begin to identify the key enabling conditions and barriers to the development and implementation of sustainability agreements.



Timing 	17 March 2022 Agenda Items
09.45 - 10.00	<i>Registration</i>
10.00 – 10.20	Welcome participants and agenda of the day <i>Icebreaker</i>
10.20 – 11.15	Framing Sustainability Agreements <i>Presentations:</i> <i>Sustainability agreements and the Common Agricultural Policy (DG AGRI/European Commission)</i> <i>Sustainability agreements under EU competition law: Draft revised guidelines on horizontal cooperation agreements (DG Comp/European Commission)</i> <i>Collective actions and sustainability in the food value chain (María Coto Saura, Gema Carmona García, ENRD CP)</i> Followed by Discussion
11.15 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 13.00	Introduction to working groups Parallel group discussions - Sustainability agreements: Implications for business, the environment and the consumer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the main benefits that food chain sustainability agreements can bring?</i> - <i>What sort of agreements are going to be most important in delivering such benefits?</i> - <i>What are the key enabling conditions/barriers to the development of such agreements?</i>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00 – 14.30	Reporting back from group discussions
14.30 – 15.20	Panel Discussion - Reflections from TG members on earlier group discussions and next steps for the thematic group. <i>Jan Willem Van Der Schans – Researcher, Netherlands</i>



	<p><i>Alison Graham – Irish Co-operative Organisation Society, Ireland</i></p> <p><i>Petko Simeonov – PO Bulgarian Organic Foods OOD, Bulgaria</i></p> <p><i>Esther Ontiveros – PO DCOOP SCA, Spain & Portugal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>What have you found to be the most important points raised so far?</i>- <i>What should the TG be focusing on next?</i> <p><i>Followed by discussion</i></p>
15.20 – 15.30	Concluding remarks and Next Steps.

