



Food donation in the EU

EU guidelines on food donation

On 16 October 2017, the European Commission adopted EU guidelines on food donation to facilitate the recovery and redistribution of safe and edible food to those in need.

'Food waste also has an important social angle:

donation of food that is still edible but that for logistic or marketing reasons cannot be commercialised should be facilitated.'

(Closing the loop – An EU action plan for the Circular Economy, COM(2015) 614 final)



Their aim:

To clarify relevant provisions in EU legislation and to help lift barriers to food redistribution in the current EU regulatory framework.



Their objectives:

To facilitate compliance of providers and recipients of surplus food with relevant requirements in EU regulation (hygiene and food safety, traceability, liability, VAT, etc.).

To promote a common interpretation of EU rules that apply to the redistribution of surplus food by regulatory authorities in Member States.

The EU is committed to meeting Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, to halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030.



From Farm to Fork



Food waste is generated at each stage of the food value chain and its causes are complex. To prevent food waste, we need to shift towards a circular economy and more sustainable food systems.

The main focus of food waste prevention should be to act at the source by limiting the generation of surplus food at each stage of the food supply chain. When surplus food occurs, the best solution that ensures the highest value use is – without compromising food safety – to redistribute it for human consumption.



Every year, **88 million tonnes of food waste** are generated in the EU (20 % of the total food produced),

costing an estimated **€143 Billion** (FUSIONS, 2016).

The Abundance – Scarcity Paradox

Around 112 million EU citizens are at risk of poverty or social exclusion and **over 40 million people cannot afford a quality meal** with meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day (Eurostat).



#FoodDonationGuidelines #EUCircularEconomy #FoodWasteEU

Download the EU guidelines on food donation in your language here:

ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/food-donation_en



EU guidelines on food donation focus on issues which need to be addressed at EU level. Where relevant, rules and guidelines of Member States need to be also taken into account.

Saving Food Together