



Farm to Fork

Contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security

CC SUD meeting – 13/04/2021

Emilia GARGALLO GONZALEZ, MARE A.2

Context

Farm-to-Fork Action #2 : *Develop a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security*

- *step up coordination of a common European response to crises affecting food systems*
- *drawing on lessons learned*
- *set up a food crisis response mechanism, coordinated by the Commission and involving Member States*
- *comprised of various sectors (agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, food safety, workforce, health and transport issues) depending on the nature of the crisis*

 **Communication 2021 Q4**

Context – COVID19

- Food supply chain proved resilient
 - EU policies helped (CAP, CFP, single market...)
 - COM and MSs ad hoc coordination helped
- But in initial stages lack of coordination & fast moving situation
 - Barriers to movement: between MSs of goods, services, workers needed to maintain food supply (incl. cross-border and seasonal workers)
 - Sudden disappearance of significant demand sources ('HORECA')



We avoided a food crisis on top of the sanitary crisis, but we can improve (*ex ante*, cross-policy) coordination

What is envisaged?

Contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security during crises

- A common EU food crisis response mechanism:
 - A **forum** with Member States (& possibly stakeholders) – COM coordinates
 - (also: market monitoring and risk assessment, and market management measures → already existing)
- An agreed set of procedures to follow to respond to crises → in the form of guidelines and recommendations & (non-binding) agreements w/ MSs
 - **Informed** by the work of the forum



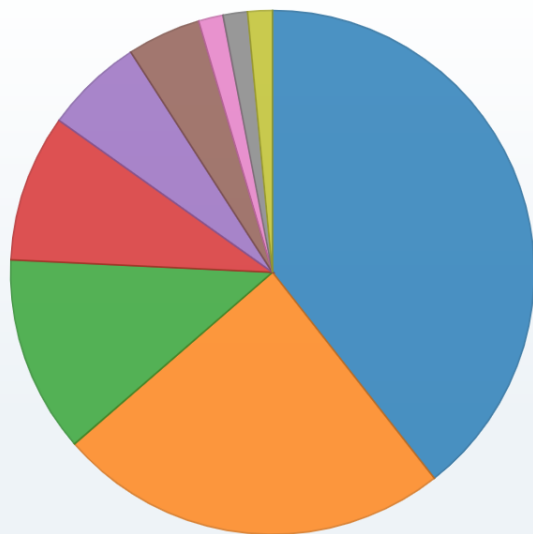
**Framed by, and consistent with, F2F objectives
(sustainability, etc.)**

Forum (see roadmap)

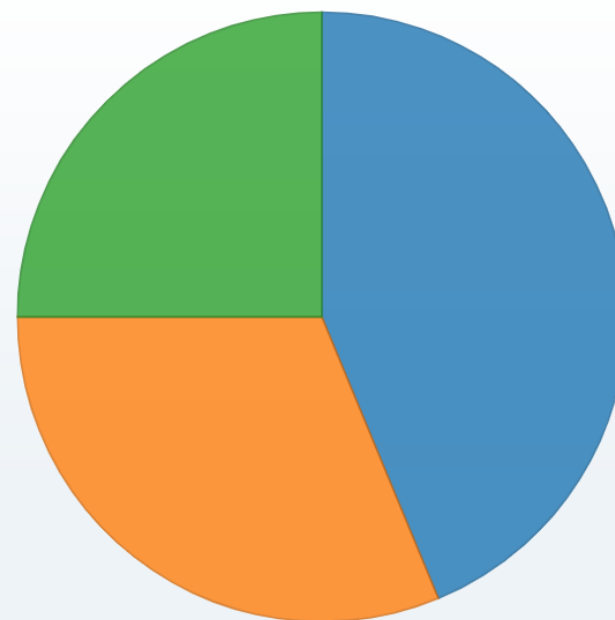
- coordinated action and dialogue to support policy consistency across the EU (not international / extra-EU food security issues)
- a space for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned
- use a solid and up-to-date evidence base
- continuously evaluate threats to the EU's food system,
- engage with international partners and organisations, and
- transparent communication to stakeholders and the public.

Feedback

67 replies received



BUSINESS ASSOCIATION : 26 (39%)	COMPANY/BUSINESS ORGANISATION : 16 (24%)
EU CITIZEN : 8 (12%)	NGO (NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION) : 6 (9%)
OTHER : 4 (6%)	CONSUMER ORGANISATION : 3 (5%)
NON-EU CITIZEN : 1 (2%)	PUBLIC AUTHORITY : 1 (2%)
TRADE UNION : 1 (2%)	



LARGE (250 OR MORE) : 7 (44%)	MICRO (< 10 EMPLOYEES) : 5 (31%)	SMALL (< 50 EMPLOYEES) : 4 (25%)
-------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Further roadmap feedback - review

Diverse set of stakeholders,

- agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture producers, processors, retailers and wholesalers, consumer groups, input providers, non-governmental organisations, citizens and third-country respondents

Broad support (79% in favour, 21% do not state clear position, 0% against)

Feedback consistent across stakeholder types: EU food system showed resilience, but challenges and risks exist

Fish & aqua: oversupply / lower demand, Horeca closures, growing aquaculture stocks

Roadmap and feedback: <https://europa.eu/!kX77kj>

Feedback: Some highlights

- **Resilience:** Food security to be built in normal times
- **MS:** Coordination and timeliness of response: border closures and controls + Deal with bottlenecks
- **Staff:** Address shortages and ensure business continuity : borders + pandemic effect (ill, childcare);
- **Access:** Raw materials and packaging;
- **Prices:** Need to monitor prices, notably import prices.
- **Demand:** HORECA closures (lower turnover, added value)
- **Consumers:** transparent communication
- **Money:** Access to financial support.
- **Long-term effects:** decrease in demand for EU products + Viability of producers

 **high uncertainty (lockdowns, order cancellations, transport)**

GREX planning

Date	Topic
20 January 2021	What are the lessons learnt from Covid-19 and other crises with regards to food security?
25 February 2021	What are the threats to EU food security?
26 March 2021	How are EU, MS, third countries, international organisations prepared?
21 April 2021	How are companies in the EU food supply chain prepared?
20 May 2021	JRC workshop
16 June 2021	What kind of EU general principles/guidelines to ensure continuity of food security in times of crises?
15 July 2021	How to best organise a coordinated approach ?

Main next steps (indicative)

- **EU SURVEY : 3/ MAY/2021**

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/11b0c288-4b48-261f-e611-653c49d6467e>

- Expert meetings
- Ad hoc meetings

Q4 2021: F2F → Communication and Staff Working Document

Stakeholder questionnaire

1. EU food security: level of food system resilience? Main threats? Which stages and sectors more vulnerable? What changing context relevant for food security?
2. Lessons learned from COVID-19: food system performance in early stages? How useful public measures? Which useful private sector measures? Which measures lacking?
3. Crisis prep and management (FSC operators): which difficulties faced? What kind of risk management or contingency plan action?
4. Preparation for future crises: level of preparation now? Where would EU action be useful?
5. EU Contingency Plan: what elements needed? Which useful?

Thank you.