



## Leading EU agri-food chain organisations unite in a call for more involvement around the shaping of the future legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems

Brussels, 12 May 2023; Today, 31 organisations representing leading organisations of the food chain in the EU sent [a joint letter](#) to the European Commission asking to be more involved in the building process of the Farm to Fork flagship initiative: the legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS).

In a joint letter, signatories stated their worries about the limited ongoing dialogue and called for further involvement between EU food chain stakeholders and the European Commission to ensure the successful establishment of the new EU framework legislation (FSFS). Considering the ambition of the FSFS to accelerate and facilitate the transition towards sustainable food systems, such a dialogue is key.

The signatories highlighted the necessity to provide a more precise scope for the framework too. To be effective, the FSFS cannot disregard the diversity and on-the-ground realities of the agri-food chain, its products, and processes to enable all players to deliver. In this regard, a clear definition of sustainability, keeping a balance between its three pillars, would go in the right direction.

Policy coherence will be fundamental for the popularity of the FSFS. The proposed legislative framework will have to avoid duplicates with already existing legislation, ensure an interdisciplinary approach and involve all the relevant Commission DGs. Trade and the international dimension of sustainability will have to be considered accordingly. A high level of EU harmonisation is necessary to avoid the fragmentation of the EU market.

The signatories also recalled that any sustainable food system should ensure food security (including food availability, affordability, and accessibility) and nutrition security.

Given the complexity of the FSFS framework, there is a clear need for a proper assessment of its potential associated costs and of supports for the transition. Such an assessment cannot be made without the involvement of all players involved in the agri-food value chain.

## Signatories

- AnimalhealthEurope - manufacturers of animal medicines, vaccines and other animal health products
- AREPO - Association of European Regions for Products of Origin
- A.R.E.F.L.H - Assembly of European Horticultural Regions
- AVEC - Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU countries
- CELCAA - the voice of European traders in agri-food commodities
- CEEV - Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins
- CEVI - European Confederation of Independent Winegrowers
- CEJA - European council of young farmers
- CropLife Europe - representing the crop protection industry
- COCERAL - European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply
- Copa-Cogeca - the united voice of farmers and their cooperatives in the European Union
- EFFA - European Flavour Association
- EFFAB - European Forum of Farm Animals Breeders
- EFOW - European Federation of Origin Wines
- ELO - European Landowners' Organization
- Eurocommerce - the voice of Retail and Wholesale in Europe
- Euro Coop - European Community of Consumer Co-operatives
- EU Specialty Food Ingredients - Federation of European Specialty Food Ingredients Industries
- Europatat - European Potato Trade Association
- Euroseeds - the voice of the European seed sector
- FEFAC - The European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation
- Fertilizers Europe - represents the interests of the majority of mineral fertilizer manufacturers in the European Union
- FoodDrinkEurope - represents the European food and drink industry, the largest manufacturing sector in the EU in terms of turnover and employment
- FoodService Europe - represents the interests of the European contract catering sector at EU level
- GME - Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe
- Hotrec - the umbrella Association of Hotels, Restaurants, Pubs and Cafes and similar establishments in Europe
- IBC - the federation of national associations of small and medium-sized craft butcher and catering companies
- Independent Retail Europe - the European association for groups of independent retailers in the food and non-food sectors
- PFP - Primary Food Processors
- Serving Europe - Branded Food and Beverage Service Chains Associations
- UECEBV - European Livestock and Meat Trades Union