



Farm to Fork

Contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security

MAC meeting – 29/01/2021

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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



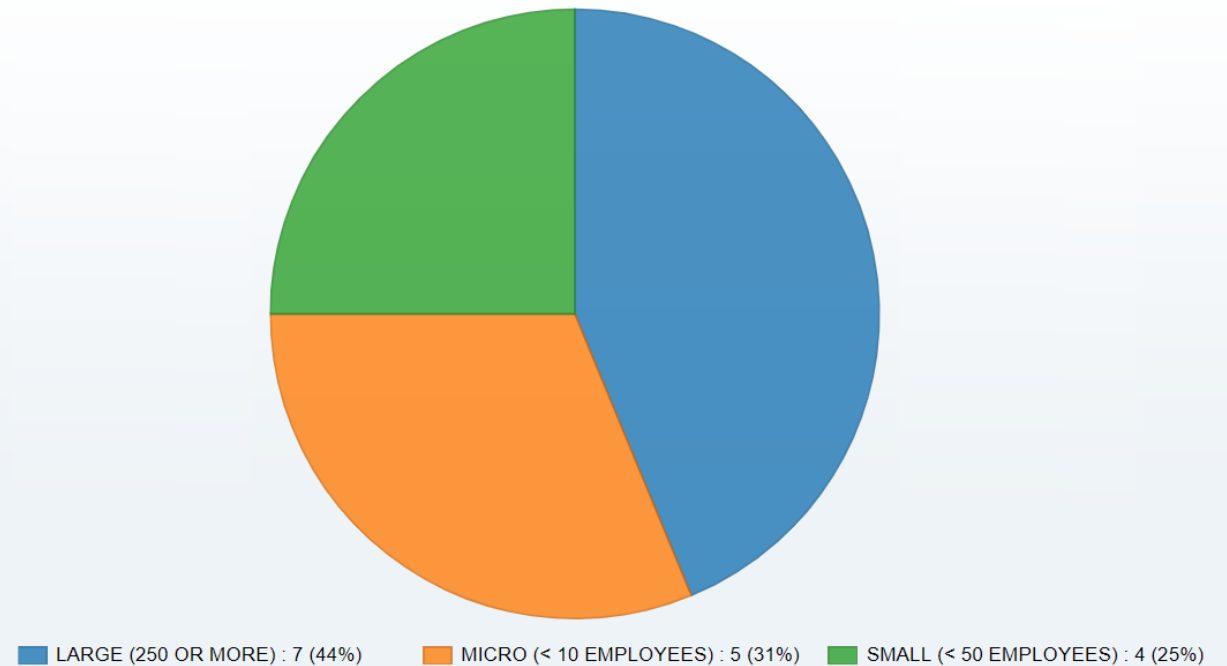
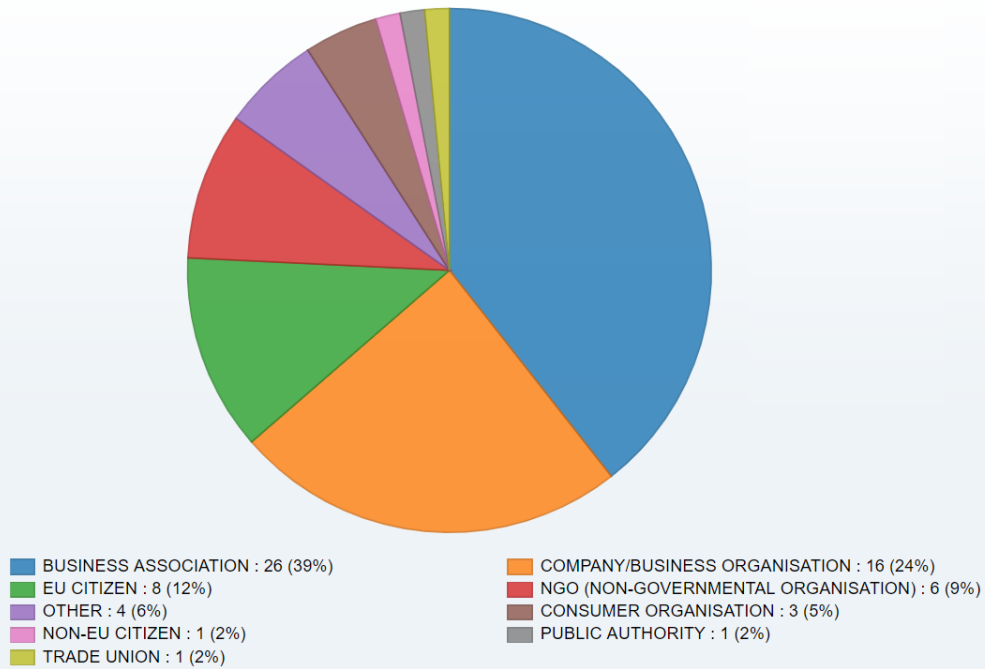
**Framed by, and consistent with, F2F objectives
(sustainability, etc.)**

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

66 replies received (+ 1)



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)**

Main next steps (indicative)

- Stakeholder questionnaire: early 2021
- Q1-Q2 expert groups meetings – monthly (up to Summer)
- Q2 : JRC technical workshop
- Market Observatories, CDGs, and other consultative bodies
- Ad hoc meetings

Q4 2021: F2F → Communication and Staff Working Document

Thank you.

Context - related initiative

F2F Action #1: *proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems*

- Delivery: 2023
- consider, among others, strengthening the resilience of food systems and the ability to respond to crises threatening food security