

Legislative Initiative on a framework for a Union sustainable food system

DG SANTE

European Union



Goals of the F2F Strategy



GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly EU food system



BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FOOD VALUE CHAIN

- 1) Ensure sustainable food/feed production
- 2) Stimulate sustainable food/feed processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services practices
- 3) Promote sustainable consumption & facilitate shift to healthy and sustainable diets
- 4) Reduce food loss and food waste
- 5) Ensure food security, combat food fraud



ENABLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

- 1) Research & innovation
- 2) Advisory services, data and skills



PROMOTE A GLOBAL TRANSITION: coherent global EU food policy



Farm to Fork Strategy: 27 actions

New legislative proposals

Revision of current legislation

Non legislative such as Code of conduct, action plans



New framework legislation on a Union sustainable food system

- ✓ Currently no dedicated EU framework law on food sustainability similar to the EU framework law on food/feed safety, i.e. General Food Law (GFL)
- ✓ Different pieces of legislation address some components of food sustainability, e.g. Pesticides, GMOs, (food) waste, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), but none do so holistically
- ✓ Fitness Check of the GFL (2018) → regulatory framework found largely inadequate to address the new challenges of food sustainability



Objective of Union level intervention

Ensure that all foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable through a socially responsible food value chain

- an enabling environment for future policy and legislation, ensuring coherence with all EU food related policies in terms of sustainability objectives, including biodiversity and climate objectives;
- a favourable and transparent food environment making it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets;
- avoid externalisation of unsustainable practices and raise global standards, while remaining within planetary boundaries;
- optimise the production, distribution and consumption of food, so as to increase resource efficiency and reduce food loss and waste.



Policy options to achieve the objectives

- ✓ Option 1 – Baseline
- ✓ Option 2 – Voluntary approaches
- ✓ Option 3 – Reinforcing existing legislation
- ✓ Option 4 – New comprehensive framework legislation on the sustainability of the Union food system → *lex generalis*, setting the basis for an integrated approach for *lex specialis*; **Push provisions** would introduce minimum requirements for food products and related operations. For the food operations and products that meet the minimum requirements and are on the market, **pull provisions** would set incentives for producers to go beyond the minimal requirements



Indicative elements for the policy options

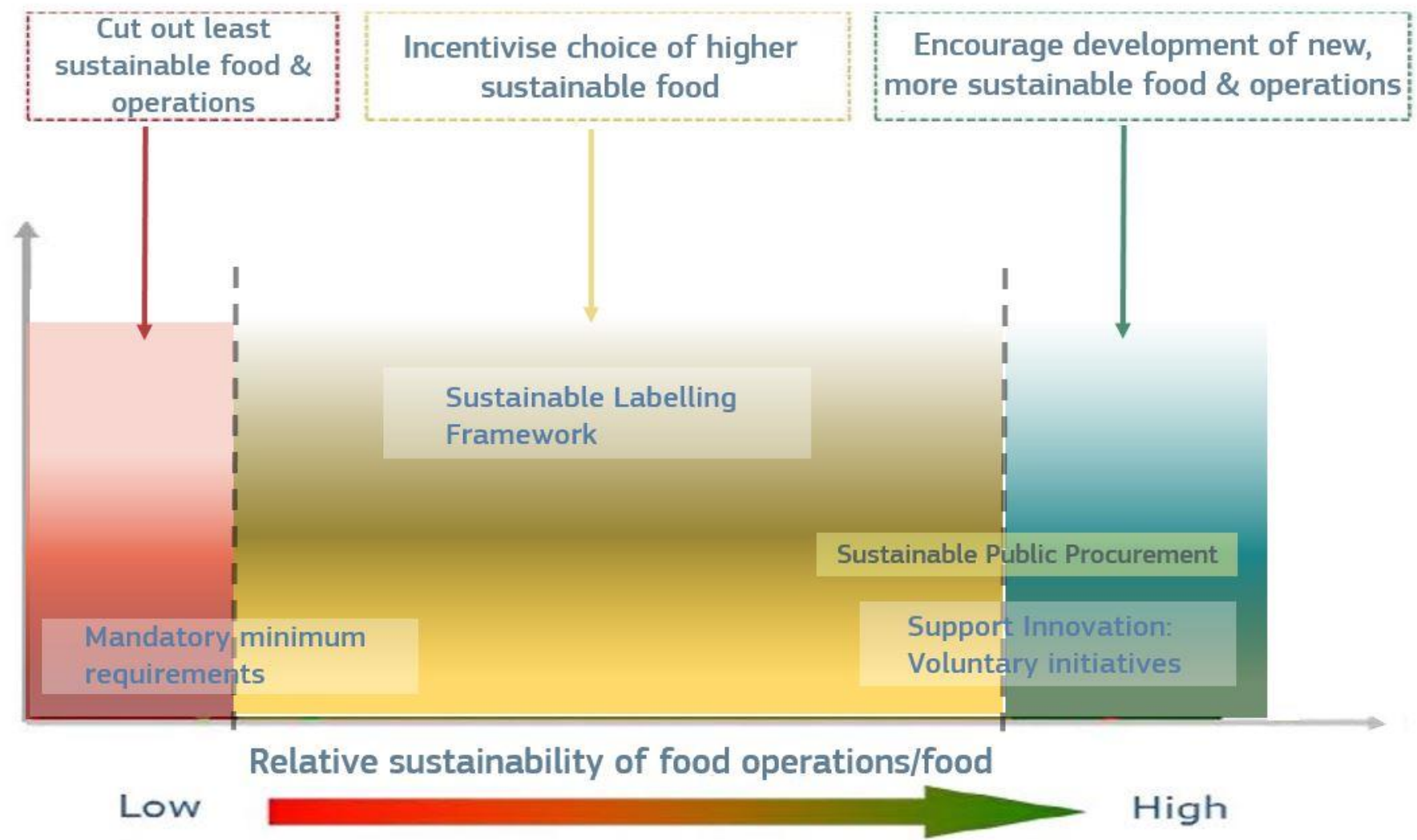
- ✓ Sustainability principles & objectives to provide common understanding
- ✓ **Definitions:** ‘*food system*’, ‘*sustainable food system*’, ‘*food environment*’, ‘*food system actors*’, ‘*sustainability analysis*’, ‘*healthy/sustainable diets*’, ‘*traceability for sustainability purposes*’
- ✓ **Minimum sustainability standards** for foods/food operations
- ✓ **Responsibilities** of food system’s actors
- ✓ Horizontal elements for **sustainability analysis for regulated products** in the food chain
 - *relation between risk analysis (GFL) and sustainability analysis (FSFS)*
 - *consequences of the sustainability analysis*
 - *body to carry out sustainability analysis*



Indicative elements for the policy options

- ✓ Legitimate and proportionate requirements on sustainability for imports of food (e.g. WTO conformity)
- ✓ **Processes to ensure synergies/mechanisms** to facilitate the transition towards sustainable food systems
- ✓ **Sustainability labelling**
- ✓ Minimum mandatory sustainability criteria for **public procurement**
- ✓ **Governance** systems and transparency/consultations
- ✓ Actions to **mitigate negative impacts** of the transition on food system actors
- ✓ **Monitoring**





Impacts to analyse in the IA

- ✓ **Economic**
- ✓ **Social**
- ✓ **Enviromental**
- ✓ Impacts on fundamental rights
- ✓ Impacts on simplification and/or administrative burdens

→ quantify the possible administrative burden linked to the policy measures to the extent possible and identify, where appropriate, the possibilities for minimising and mitigating it, for example with digital solutions or increased collaboration amongst the actors



Next steps

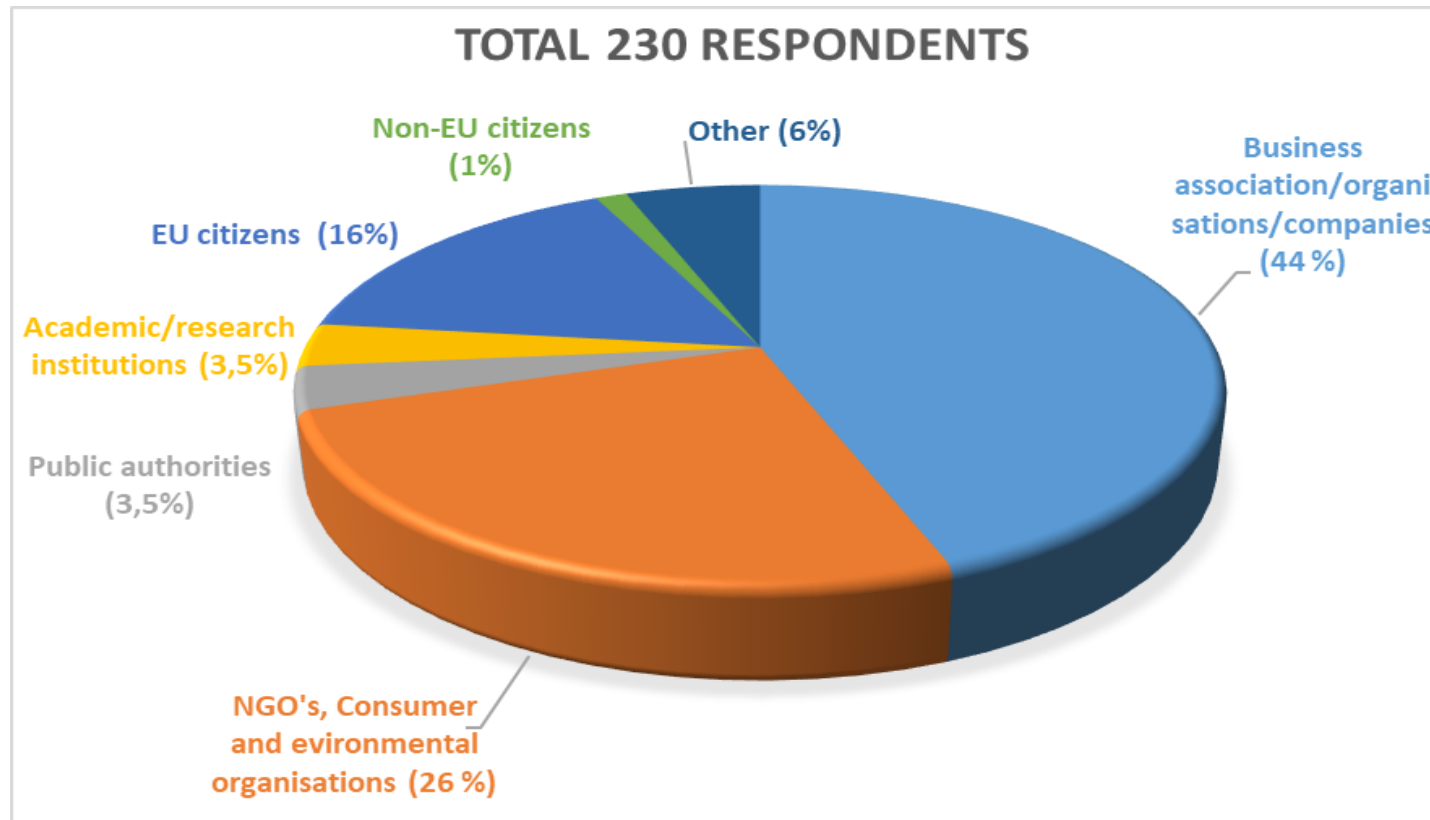
- ✓ Analysis of the feedback on the inception impact assessment
- ✓ Launch of the work on the impact assessment
- ✓ Adoption of the initiative at the latest by December 2023

→ continuous discussion and consultation with public and private stakeholders throughout the process



Inception Impact assessment

- Consultation period: 28 September – 26 October 2021



Inception Impact assessment (I)

Emerging issues:

- For businesses & business associations:
 - definition of sustainability (consensus on need for common EU definition on sustainable food systems);
 - sustainability assessment (diversity of views);
 - labelling (diversity of views);
 - impacts of the transition to sustainability on costs and prices, and necessity of support measures (relatively broad consensus among respondents)
 - trade (consensus on need for policy coherence between sustainability objectives and trade)
- For academia: responses focused on making recommendations as regards labelling, pricing of sustainable food, and support measures for the transition to more sustainable food systems.



Inception Impact assessment (II)

- Member States (BE, CZ, DK, FI and IE),
 - Highlight importance to assess the impact of the different options. The different options should not exclude each other. Voluntary measures can play a role during the transition.
- NGO's/Environmental and Consumer organizations
 - General support for the option to establish a comprehensive framework legislation on the sustainability of the Union Food System. The role of sustainable public procurement, the importance of labelling and the need for transition towards plant based diets was emphasized.
- EU citizens
 - The main concerns of the responding citizens relate to unsustainable animal production and the too high consumption of meat. They are asking to stop supporting intensive livestock production and to encourage the production and consumption of plant-based alternatives.



Consultation of public and private stakeholders

- Inception Impact Assessment
- Targeted expert workshops
- Annual Farm to Fork Conference
- Consultation of relevant experts/sectorial groups of stakeholders
- Consultation of relevant Member States' expert groups of the Commission
- Consultation of European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, decentralised agencies (EFSA; EEA; ECHA)
- Structured/semi-structured interviews
- Targeted questionnaires



Thank you



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