

Initiative on food waste reductions targets

MAC – WG 3
26 January 2022

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Development of policy action

2015 – **Circular Economy package** - set of actions and new legislative proposal on waste (Waste Framework Directive)

2018 – **Waste Framework Directive adopted**, including provisions on food waste (definition, obligation for monitoring, **possible targets**)

2020 – **Farm to Fork** strategy promises **legally binding targets** on food waste prevention

2023 – proposal for targets planned to be adopted by the Commission, as part of **revision of Waste Framework Directive**, alongside targets on other waste streams.



Definition of food waste

Definition (Waste Framework Directive):

Article 3.4(a) - "food waste" - means all food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council that has become waste.

Interpretation:

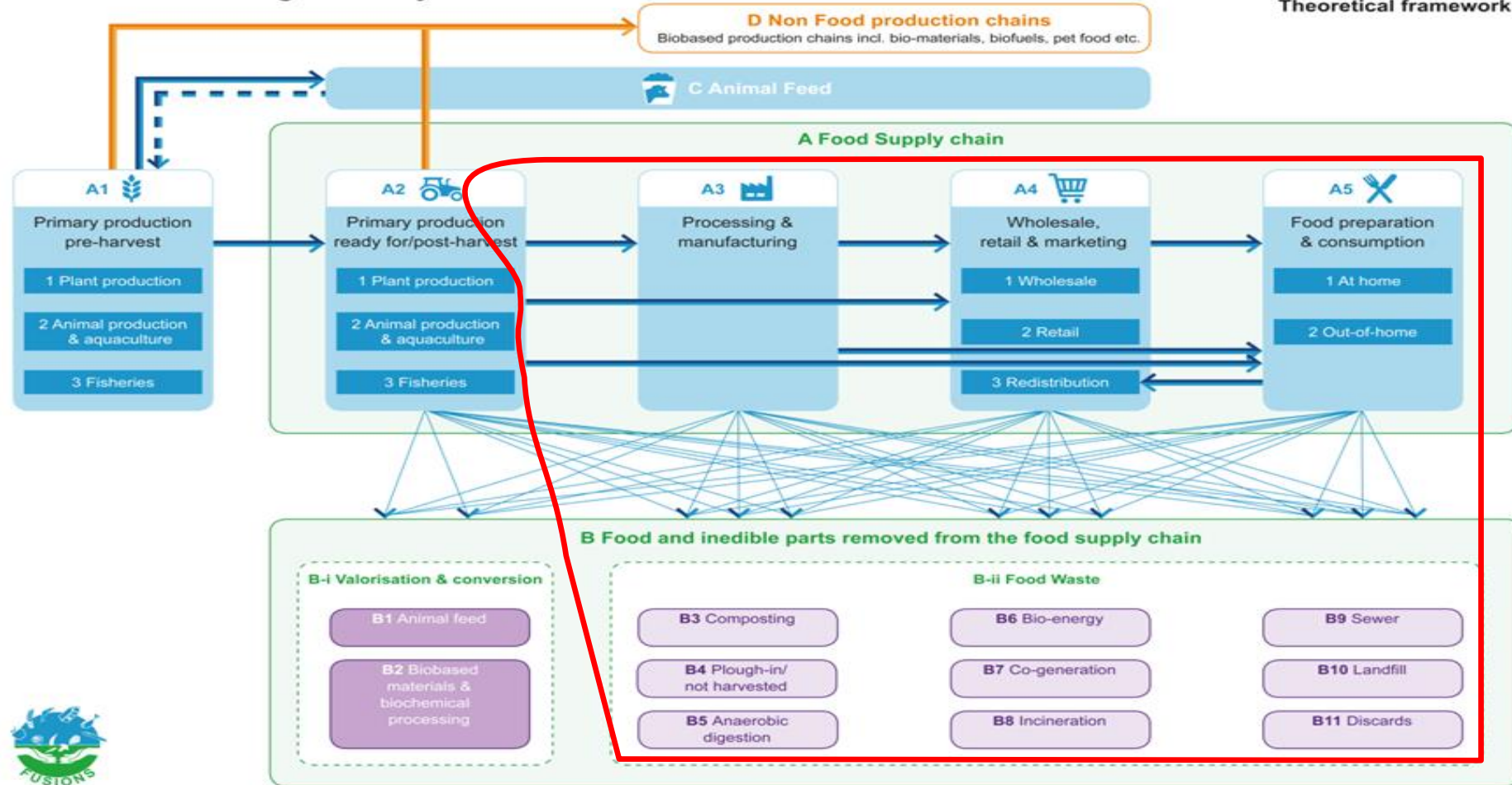
- **food** - as defined and applied in General Food Law - i.e. referring to entire food (including all its parts both edible as well as parts of food not intended to be eaten),
- **which has becomes a waste** – i.e. which the holder (in this case an FBO or household) discards it or intends or is required to discard



Food waste measurement coverage – research approach (EU FUSIONS project 2016)

Resource flows in Agri-Food System

FUSIONS
Theoretical framework



| Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check

- 20% of all food produced in the EU ending up as food waste
- 88m tonnes of food waste are generated annually in the EU
- Despite political commitments (e.g. SDG Target 12.3) and legal guidance (aforementioned 2018 revision of Directive 2008/98/EC), **Member States' response to food waste has been uneven and is not sufficient** to address the risk of prolonged environmental damage, and the consequent negative economic impacts for consumers, enterprises and society as a whole.



Objective and expected response from MS

- The objective of the legally binding target would be **to ensure that Member States take ambitious action** to reduce food waste in their respective territories
- The proposal will define the level of reduction of food waste and **each Member State** will need to choose the most **effective measures taking into account its specific national situation**. For example:
 - Improving knowledge/raising awareness on food waste levels and impacts
 - influencing attitudes and behaviours of food business operators and consumers
 - encouraging change in the food value chain toward less wasteful practices.



Legal basis

Waste Framework Directive - Art 9(6)

By 31 December 2023, the Commission shall examine data on food waste provided by Member States in accordance with Article 37(2) with a view to considering the feasibility of setting up a Union-wide food waste reduction target to be met by 2030 on the basis of the data reported by the Member States in accordance with the common methodology established pursuant to paragraph 4a of this Article. To this end, a report from the Commission, accompanied by a proposal, if appropriate, shall be sent to the European Parliament and the Council.



Policy options - approach

Two issues needs **to be decided: (1) scope and form of the target** and **(2) the level of the target**

Hence, 2 phase approach is proposed.

- **Step 1** - select a combination of scope and form that is most feasible and efficacious (to be decided by the Commission, with the input from stakeholders - Feedback)
- **Step 2** – for the selected combination, find optimal level of the target (by assessment of technical feasibility and comparing costs and benefits). Initially, we propose to analyse impacts from 3 targets levels (+ baseline)



Policy options – **scope** - S1 vs S2

- **Option S1** - target covering whole food supply chain, from farm gate to final consumer
Challenges: data coverage, waste vs by-products, food trade
- **Option S2** - target covering only selected stages of the food supply chain (for example SDG Target 12.3 sets targets at retail and consumer levels)
Challenge: target limited to retail and consumption phase only



Policy options – target setting – T1 vs T2 vs T3

The way the targets are set for Member States

- **Option T1** - the same target level for all Member States – default option
- **Option T2** – target level differentiated by Member States

Does any country need more time? or lower target because of low baseline?

- **Option T3** – collective target on EU level – based on MS contributions

Solution inspired to some extent by climate rules – more advanced countries go further ahead, less advanced at a slower pace – collective target is to be reached at EU level by 2030



Policy options – step 2

Step 2 – for the selected combination, find optimal level of the target (by assessment of technical feasibility and comparing costs and benefits). Initially, we propose to analyse impacts from 3 targets levels (+ baseline)

- Option 1 (basic): to reduce food waste in the EU by **15-25%**
- Option 2: (medium): to reduce food waste in the EU by **25-35%**
- Option 3: (advanced): to reduce food waste in the EU by **40-50%**

Reminder: These levels refer to reduction of **total food waste**.

Analysis of the impacts is planned to be conducted by using JRC MAGNET model.



Inception Impact Assessment

Published on “Have Your Say” portal – **1.X - 29.X 2021**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13223-Food-waste-reduction-targets_en

Feedback:

85 responses from 17 EU Member States + UK + US



Summary of the feedback

A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check

- General support to the targets and (usually) calls for ambitious targets
- Several comments calling for extending the scope of the exercise (e.g. NGOs include food losses)

B. Objectives and Policy options

- Higher preference to set targets across whole food supply chain
- Support for high reduction targets from NGOs, but MS suggested more cautious approach



Expected impacts

Economic impacts:

- Positive for the society as a whole
- Impacts on specific stakeholders may vary
- Strongly dependent on the implementation measures by MS

Social impacts:

- Positive but limited
- Possible reduced convenience for consumers

Environmental impacts:

- Highly positive

Administrative burden:

- additional burden is expected to be limited (but strongly depends on MS actions)



Next steps:

- Open public consultations (**2Q 2022**)
- Data reporting from Member States to Eurostat (**deadline 30 June 2022**)
- Proposal from Commission is currently planned for **2Q 2023**



Thank you



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