

Joint open letter on the need to publish the EU legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems before the end of this Commission's mandate

Brussels, 6th September 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned organisations, and distinguished academics, are writing once again to call upon you to ensure that an ambitious proposal for an EU legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS) is presented before the end of your Commission's mandate.

In light of the upcoming European elections, we want to express our utmost concern regarding the delay of essential policies related to priority commitments in your mandate, particularly those of the Green Deal which promise to deliver healthy and affordable food to EU citizens.

We urge you to resist misguided and short-sighted calls for a regulatory pause in the Commission's green agenda and to move ahead as planned with the publication of the FSFS proposal. We expect this major initiative to feature prominently in your State of the Union Letter of Intent that will set out the Commission's priorities for the remainder of its mandate.

The FSFS is the flagship of the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy and a central piece of the Green Deal itself. Failing to publish this law will mean failing to deliver on the EU's climate, environment and health goals. The EU has set a target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55% by the end of the decade and become climate neutral by 2050. Work is ongoing to set an intermediary GHG reduction target for 2040. Food businesses, retailers, farmers, consumers and policymakers need the FSFS as an enabling policy framework to empower them to play their part in the transition of the agri-food sector, which is critical to the achievement of the EU's climate objectives.

Likewise, failing to prioritise the shift to healthy food environments and diets despite their known critical contribution to the prevention of non-communicable diseases will mean failing to deliver on essential health policies such as Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

Scientific evidence clearly backs the urgency of the transformation of our food system towards a more sustainable and healthier one, within planetary boundaries. The European Commission must keep environmental and social sustainability, as well as animal welfare, at the heart of the policy debate around food, agriculture and fisheries. The challenges ahead are not minor, and the cost of inaction in terms of biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, and subsequent damage to agricultural productivity, together with the surge of non-communicable diseases, is unaffordable.

We urge you to stand by your commitment to an environmentally and animal friendly, fair and healthy food system as set out in the F2F Strategy and present an ambitious FSFS proposal as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

AirClim - Air Pollution & Climate Secretariat

Alcohol Action Ireland

ALTROCONSUMO

Amadriadi Aps

Anima International

Animal Protection Denmark

Arbeiterkammer

Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft
e.V.

ARCHE NOAH

Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza

Associação Protectora dos Diabéticos de Portugal
(Diabetes Portugal)

Association Biom/BirdLife Croatia

Association Végétarienne de France

Associazione Consumatori Utenti (Users and
Consumers Association Italy)

Associazione Italiana di Agroecologia (AIDA)

Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller
(AÖL) e.V. (Association of Organic Food
Producers)

BEUC

Biodynamic Federation Demeter

BirdLife Cyprus

BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

Cambiamo Agricoltura

Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the
Industry (CAAI)

Caring Doctors

Cidamb - Associação Nacional para a Cidadania
Ambiental

ClientEarth

CNCD-11.11.11.

Coalición Por Otra PAC

Coalition contre la faim

Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)

COFACE Families Europe

Compassion in World Farming EU

Consumentenbond

Consumer Association the Quality of Life – EKPIZO

Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)

Danish Consumer Council

Défi Belgique Afrique

Deutsche Umwelthilfe

Deutscher Naturschutzring

Dierenbescherming

Djurens Rätt

Društvo za trajnostni razvoj Duh časa (Zeitgeist,
Slovenian Sustainability Society)

Dutch Food Transition Coalition

Ecopreneur.eu

Entreprendre Vert (French Network for the Green
Economy)

Envol Vert

Ernährungsrat Berlin (Berlin Food Policy Council)

Essere Animali

Eten+Welzijn

Eurogroup for Animals

EuroHealthNet

European Academy of Paediatrics

European Alliance for Plant-based Foods (EAPF)

European Community of Consumers Co-operatives
(Eurocoop)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

European Heart Network (EHN)

European Independent Foundation in
Angiology/Vascular Medicine

European Institute of Women's Health

European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Fair Trade Advocacy Office

Federación de Consumidores y Usuarios CECU

Fédération Française des Diabétiques

Federation SEPANSO Aquitaine

FEDERAZIONE NAZIONALE PRO NATURA

FederBio - Federazione Italiana Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica	Luxembourgish Consumer Association (ULC)
Feedback EU	Madre Brava
Feedback Global	Meng Landwirtschaft
Fern	Mighty Earth
FIAN Europe	Minha Terra – Federação Portuguesa de Associações de Desenvolvimento Local
Focus Association for Sustainable Development	Natagora
Foodwatch	Natuurpunt
Forum Ökologie & Papier	Netzwerk der Ernährungsräte, the German Network of Food Councils
Foundation for Environmental Education	Organic Sweden
Four Paws	Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural (Nature and Rural Heritage Conservation)
France Nature Environnement	Pesticide Action Network Europe
German Alliance on Climate Change and Health (KLUG e.V.)	Physicians Association for Nutrition International
Germinale cooperativa agricola di comunità	Plantenbranchen - Danish Plantbased Business Association
Green REV Institute	Polish Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife Poland
Green Transition Denmark	Polski Klub Ekologiczny w Krakowie
Greenpeace	Rete Italiana Politiche Locali del Cibo (National Network on Local Food Policies)
Hnutí DUHA - Friends of the Earth Czech Republic	Rete Semi Rurali ETS
Humánny pokrok	Safe Food Advocacy Europe
Humundi	Sciaena
IFOAM OE	Seas at Risk
Inštitut Intercer	Slovene Consumers' Association (ZPS)
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Europe	Slovenian Coalition for Public Health, Environment and Tobacco Control
International Diabetes Federation Europe	Slow Food Europe
International Society of Doctors for Environment Italy	Sociedad Española de Ornitología/BirdLife Spain
International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves
IPES-Food	Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
Irish Doctors for Environment	Sustainable Design for Metropolitan Landscapes (SUSMETRO)
Italian University Network for Sustainable Development	Svensk mat- och miljöinformation (Swedish Food and Environment Information)
KEPKA - Consumers Protection Center	Sveriges Konsumenter
Koalicja Żywa Ziemia (Living Earth Coalition)	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
LandschappenNL	Test Aankoop/Test Achats
LEGAMBIENTE	
Liga para a Protecção da Natureza (LPN)	
Lipu-BirdLife Italy	
Luontoliitto - Finnish Nature Association	

ToekomstProef	URGENTI
True Animal Protein Price Coalition	Waddenvereniging
UFC-Que Choisir	World Food Institute
ULB Cooperation	World Wildlife Fund EPO
Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development	WWOOF Italia, l'associazione di promozione sociale
Unión Vegetariana Española	ZERO – Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável
United European Gastroenterology	

This letter is supported by leading academics in the field:

Prof. Amandine Garde, Director of the Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit at the University of Liverpool, UK; President of the Law and Public Health Section, EUPHA

Prof. Erik Mathijs, KU Leuven, Belgium

Dr. Hanna Schebesta, the Netherlands

Dr. Elin Rööf, Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer Sustainable Food Systems, Sweden

Prof. Dr. Adanella Rossi, Associate Professor at the University of Pisa, Italy

Dr. David Fanfani, Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florence, Italy

Dr. Jeroen Candel, the Netherlands

Dr. Vittoria Aureli, research Fellow at the Research Centre for Food and Nutrition, Italy

Prof. Egidio Dansero, Full Professor of Political and Economic Geography at the University of Turin, Italy

Dr. Anant Jani, Heidelberg University Hospital, Germany

Prof. Bruno Mazzara, University of Roma La Sapienza, Italy

Prof. Eloisa Cristiani, Associate Professor of Agricultural Law at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, Italy

Prof. Lorenza Paoloni, Ordinario di Diritto Agrario, Dipartimento Giuridico, Università del Molise, Italy

Prof. Mariagrazia Alabrese, Associate Professor of Agricultural Law Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, Italy

Prof. Vito Rubino, Professor of EU Law at the University of East Piedmont, Italy

Assist. Prof. Victoria Marincheva, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria

Assist. Prof Joana Lopes Teixeira Nogueira Santos, Assistant Professor in Economic and Business Sciences, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo, Portugal