



F2F - Contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security

CDG HOS “Fruit and Vegetables” – 23/04/2021

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Context

Farm-to-Fork Action #2 : *Develop a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security*

- “**common European response to crises**”
- “drawing on **lessons learned**”
- “food crisis **response mechanism**, coordinated by the Commission and involving Member States”
- “**various sectors** (agriculture, fisheries, food safety, workforce, health and transport issues)”

➡ **2021 Q4** (Communication + SWD) ← roadmap = no IA

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
- Includes impact assessment

Context – COVID19

- Food supply chain proved resilient
 - EU policies helped (CAP, CFP, single market...)
 - COM and MSs ad hoc coordination helped (DG HOME COVID group)
- 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 features

- different sectors represented
- coordinated action and dialogue to support policy consistency across the EU
- 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.

Contingency Plan – Roadmap feedback

- *66 replies received*

➡ <https://europa.eu/!jv63gY>

Roadmap feedback – main insights

- Recognition of CAP, CFP, food safety rules, and single market / intl. trade role during pandemic, including flexibility
- Coordination needed between actors including staff in the food chain, sectors, with public bodies, internationally
- Communication & transparency
- Access & affordability
- Funding

Stakeholder questionnaire (still running)

- Targeted to stakeholders, open to all
- All EU languages and open for 2 months:
 - 1 March to 3 May 2021
 - over 150 replies so far
 - please distribute widely and feel free to respond!

Link: <https://europa.eu/!Mt64MV>

Contingency plan webpage on EUROPA

- Including consultation strategy, roadmap, stakeholder consultation, expert group information
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/agri-food-supply-chain/contingency-plan_en

Main next steps

- AGRI-MARE expert groups – monthly (from 20 January till 15 July, 7 in total)
- Technical or academic workshop (w/ JRC) – 20 May
- Market Observatories, CDGs, and other consultative bodies, ad hoc meetings

Q4 2021: F2F → Communication and SWD

Thank you.

GREX planning – provisional timetable

Date	Topic
20 January 2021	<u>1. What are the lessons learnt from COVID-19 and other crises with regard to food security in the EU?</u>
25 February 2021	<u>2. What are the threats to EU food security?</u>
26 March 2021	<u>3. How are the EU, Member states, non-EU countries and international organisations prepared to handle crises?</u>
21 April 2021	<u>4. How are companies in the EU food system prepared to handle crises?</u>
20 May 2021	5. JRC academic workshop
16 June 2021	6. How to best organise a coordinated approach ?
15 July 2021	7. What kind of EU general principles/guidelines to ensure continuity of food security in times of crises?