



The legislative initiative on a framework for a Union sustainable food system

DG AGRI.A1

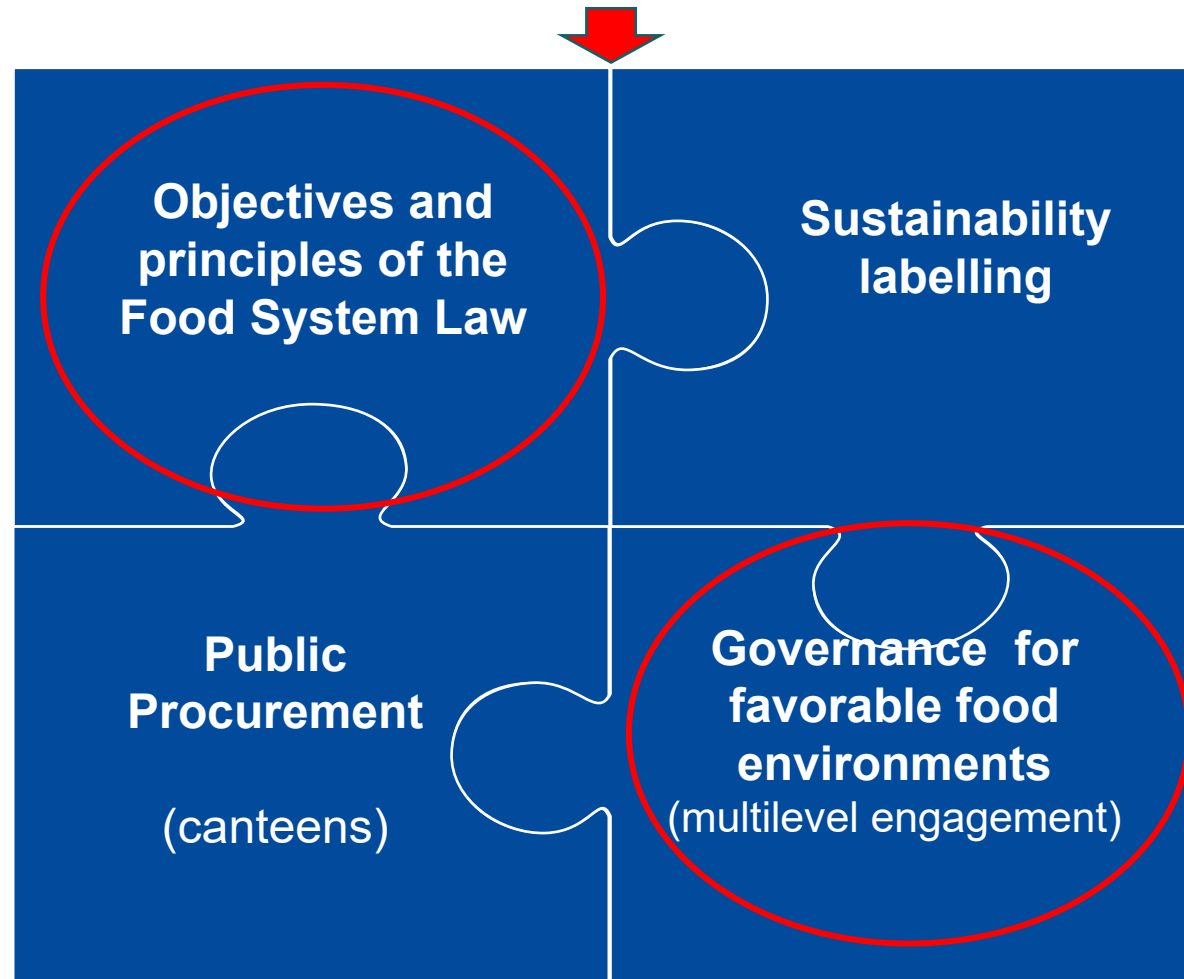
Unit on Policy Perspectives

State of play

1. Co-Lead DGs: SANTE, AGRI, ENV and MARE
2. Impact Assessment ongoing
3. Adoption planned for Q3 2023
4. Extensive consultation, workshops and targeted surveys in 2022

Building blocks

Common Definitions and General Objectives



FSFS general objectives

Overarching objective:
to improve the
functioning of the
internal market, in a
manner that enables
the systemic changes
needed by all actors
for the transition to a
resilient and
sustainable EU food
system

Strengthen the coherence of EU food system law, by mainstreaming a harmonised approach to sustainability in all food-system policies

Facilitate sustainable choices by food system actors and establish a favourable and transparent food environment

Contribute to ensure that **food related operations become increasingly sustainable**

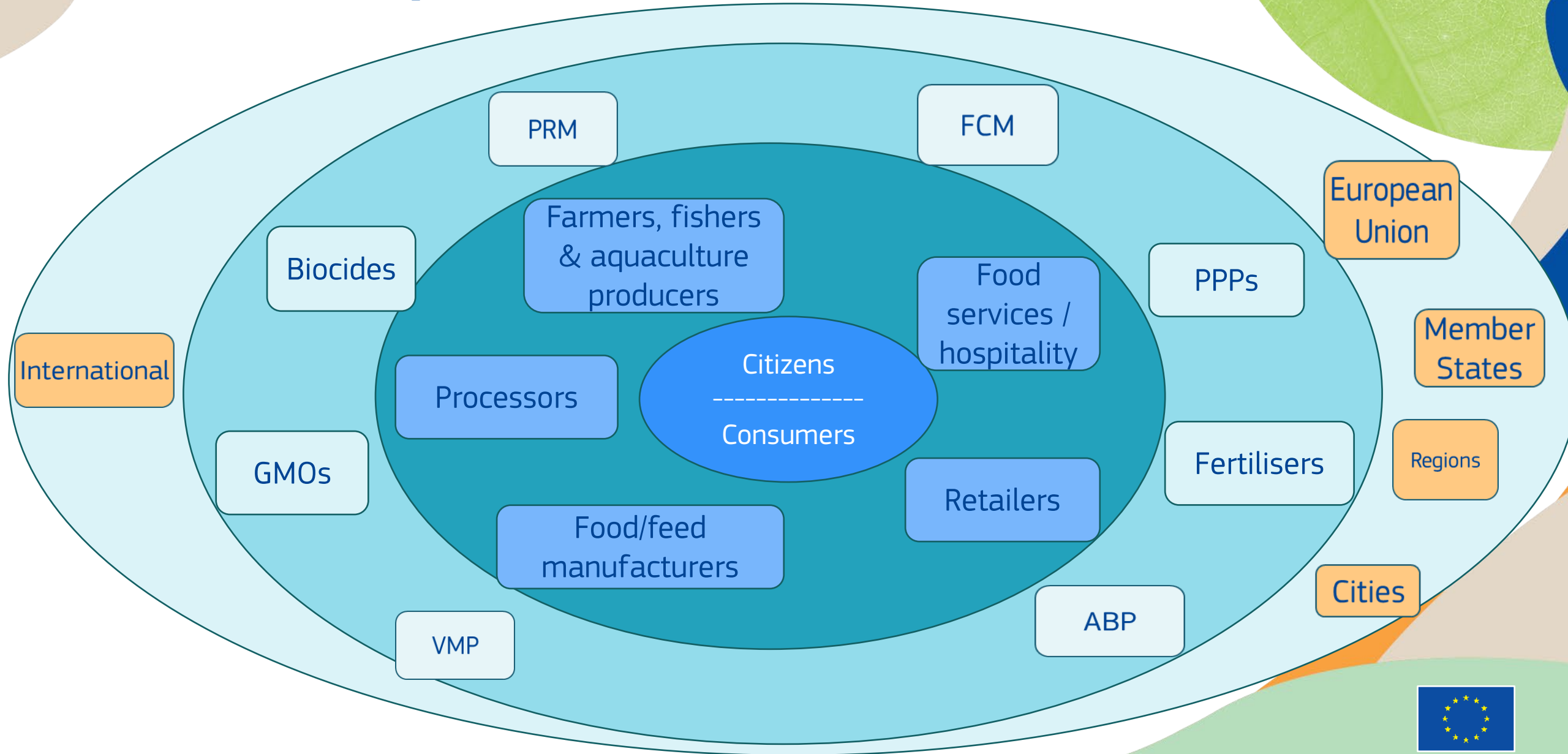
Food system (based on FAO definition)

“The **food system** refers to **the entire range of actors and their related activities** involved in:

- the production
- processing,
- distribution
- consumption
- and disposal

of **food products** that originate from **agriculture, forestry or fisheries and aquaculture**, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded and food system inputs thereof.”

Broad scope



Sustainable food system (based on SAPEA definition)

A sustainable food system for the EU is one that:

1. provides and promotes **sufficient, safe, nutritious and healthy food** of **low environmental impact** for all current and future generations
2. in a manner that itself also **protects and restores the natural environment** and its ecosystem services,
3. is **robust and resilient, economically dynamic, just and fair**, and **socially acceptable** and **inclusive**.

It does so without compromising the availability of nutritious and healthy food for people living **outside the EU**, nor impairing their natural environment.”

(*) The Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) with its 2020 Report “A sustainable food system for the European Union”

Sustainable Diets (FAO definition)

“Sustainable diets are:

- **of adequate quantity and quality** to achieve optimal **growth and development** of all individuals
- support **functioning and physical**, mental and social **wellbeing** at all life stages and physiological needs
- protective and respectful of **the environment**
- **culturally** acceptable
- **accessible**, economically **fair and affordable**
- safe and **health-promoting** and **disease-preventing**
- providing **adequacy**, without excess of nutrients from nutritious foods
- contributing to **food security** for present and future generations”

What are your views about these definitions?
Any important aspects that they should cover?

Sustainability objectives for «food system law» - Illustrative list

Environment

- **Climate change** mitigation and adaptation;
- Sustainable use and protection of **land, soil, air and water**
- Protection and conservation of **aquatic resources**
- Transition **to a circular economy**, including **food loss and food waste** reduction
- **Pollution** prevention and control
- Protection and enhancement **of biodiversity and ecosystems**
- **Other?**

Social

- High level of **animal health and welfare and plant health**
- Promotion of **sustainable diets**, ensuring **the right of people, including vulnerable groups, to a food environment** that provides and promotes access to such diets.
- **Contribution to decent work and** adequate living standards, inclusive and sustainable communities and societies;
- Preservation of **cultural and food heritage**
- **Other?**

Economic

- **Contribution to a fair distribution of returns** across the food system, in particular by ensuring a **fair price** for SMEs (including farmers, aquaculture producers and fishers);
- **Transparency and accountability** across the supply chain;
- **Responsible business practices**, including in marketing in advertising
- **Other?**

Sustainability principles for «policy makers» guiding the evaluation of thematic/sectoral law – [Illustrative list]

- Food security
- Do Not Significant Harm
- Fairness and just transition
- One Health
- Inclusiveness, collaboration and public engagement
- Transparency
- Circularity
- Innovation
- Diversity
- Other?

Any other principles?
What are your views?

Governance (enabling mechanisms)

What is the aim?

1. Encourage and support MS in the development of enabling food environments to improve access to sustainable food
2. Stimulate participative processes at national, regional and local level
3. Share good practices at EU level by connecting national, regional and local experiences

On-going reflection?

1. **Monitoring framework on food environments** to improve and share the knowledge and related policies across MS
2. **EU network of local and regional Food Councils** or similar organisations, with the aim to share experiences across MS
3. Recommend MS to establish **Food Councils at national and, where appropriate, at regional and local level**

What should be the role of the Food Councils at
national/regional/local level?

What are your views?

Thank you