

# EU Contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security in times of crisis

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*The EU food supply chain demonstrated its resilience during the COVID pandemic. However, the EU should enhance its preparedness when it comes to agricultural, fisheries and food supply.*

## 1 Lessons learnt from COVID pandemic

*EU food supply chain demonstrated its resilience during the COVID crisis.*

*This situation represented a major and unforeseen disruption for the EU food supply chain that reminded us food supply and food security can be threatened by other external factors and risks such as:*

- climate change
- the depletion of natural resources
- cyber threats
- geopolitical shifts

*“For the last decades, EU citizens have been enjoying access to a large diversity of food without any fears of shortages”*



## 2 Coordination at international and European level avoided a food crisis

*EU and Member States policies together with international coordination ensured:*

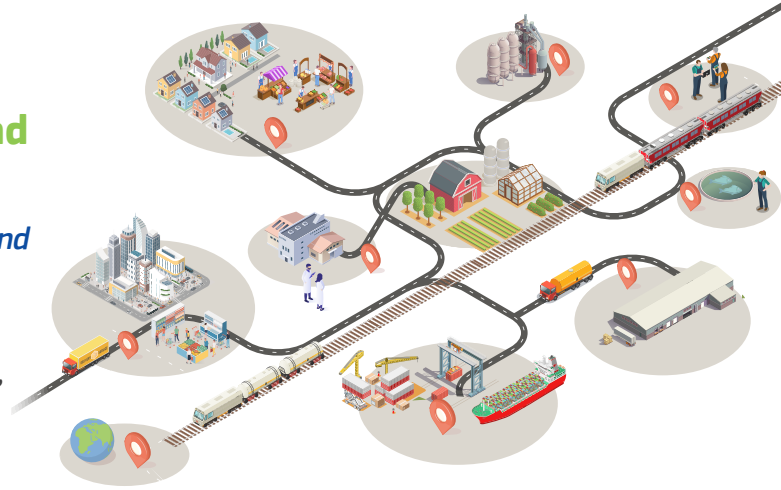
- Policy and financial support to farmers, fishers and actors of the food supply chain
- Free circulation of goods in the Single Market and internationally
- Movement of essential workers, including seasonal ones



### 3 What can the EU do to respond to future crises?

Adopting an EU Contingency plan for food supply and food security, as announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy, that will enhance:

- Preparedness in the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and food sectors, combined with initiatives in other areas: health, transport, energy, cyber, trade etc.



The following principles should guide us in times of crisis to ensure food supply and food security:

- Enhancing collaboration among public authorities & private sector
- Considering interdependencies in the supply chains
- Keeping international and domestic flows of goods and workers open
- Providing proportionate and reliable communication and market intelligence
- Monitoring information exchanges

### 4 How will the EU Contingency plan be rolled-out?



#### Set-up of: European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)

##### WHO WILL TAKE PART?

- European Commission
- Member States
- Food supply private actors
- Non-EU countries

##### A GROUP OF EXPERTS WILL:

- discuss how to achieve a better preparedness of the EU in food supply and security issues
- be ready to meet in the event of a crisis

#### Role of the European Commission



Monitoring of potential risks and vulnerabilities for the food supply chain



Looking into digital tools to speed up responses to crises



Reflecting with Member States and stakeholders on how to address crisis and improve tailored-made communication