



# 9th Beef Forum

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**copa**\***cogeca**  
european farmers      european agri-cooperatives

# Recall from the previous session

**Alice Stanton:**

- 1. Animal sourced food provides an essential contribution to people' health**
- 2. The ultra-processed imitation products proposed as alternatives are not healthy from a nutritional point of view**
- 3. The association of red met consumption to cancer is essentially based on the 2019 Global Burden of disease Study which data does not exist or adds up as admitted by the authors themselves**
- 4. A lot of public policies such the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Promotion Policy take the Global Burden of Disease study as reference point. This could have serious consequences on public health policies**

# Recall from the previous session

## Wilhelm Windisch:

1. Growing world population => less area to feed more people => need to maximize resources efficiency
2. Agriculture produces biomass that is non-edible for the most part => 1kg of vegan food produces 3-5kg of non-edible biomass
3. Livestock is the only solution to transform this non-edible biomass into high food. In addition, absolute grassland covers 70% of global agricultural area
4. Livestock can also contribute to produce the fertilizer necessary for vegan food production
5. At constant head counts, ruminants do not increase atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and hence do not additionally heat up the atmosphere

# Recall from the previous session

**Pablo Manzano:**

- 1. In the past, large number of wild herbivores more or less equivalent to our current density of livestock**
- 2. They were contributing to create open ecosystem**
- 3. In opposition to what some might think, open ecosystem, grassland contribute to climate change mitigation**
- 4. If adequately managed (pastoralism), livestock can contribute to climate change mitigation and biodiversity**





# Recall from the previous session

Jean-François Hocquette:

1. Lab-grown food is only focusing on some of the services and benefits of the animal sourced food it aims to imitate
2. From an environmental point of view, it seems not really efficient compared to well managed livestock:
  - GHGs emissions about the same
  - No contribution to biodiversity or landscape management
  - No contribution to recycling of nutrients
3. Lab-grown food is not meat from a nutritional point of view + high price + consumer acceptance
4. Diversity of livestock systems is not considered



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: what way forward?

## CONTEXT



**A overarching legislative framework for the sustainability of food systems to ensure that foods placed on the EU market increasingly become sustainable**



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## TIMELINE

### Legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS)

#### Roadmap



#### Inception Impact Assessment (IIA):

- Feedback to the IIA=> **done**
- 12 weeks Public consultation => **done**
- Targeted consultation => **Since September for interviews and questionnaires and expert workshops**
- Release of the legislative proposal => **Q3 2023**
- Ordinary legislative procedure => **Q1 or Q2 2024**



INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Sustainable food system framework initiative
LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)	DG SANTE Farm to Fork/ DG AGRI/ DG ENVI/ DG MARE
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Farm to Fork Strategy (COM(2020) 381 final)
The Inception Impact Assessment is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Inception Impact Assessment, including its timing, are subject to change.	
<b>A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check</b>	
<b>Context</b>	
The "European Green Deal" <sup>1</sup> resets the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. It is a growth strategy to transform the EU into a fairer and more prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050. It aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. The Commission's response to the dramatic and unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 crisis also highlights 'at the recovery plan' must guide and build a sustainable, more resilient and fairer Europe for the next nation.	
In this context, the European Commission adopted a comprehensive Farm to Fork Strategy <sup>2</sup> for a fair, environmentally friendly food system and the Biodiversity Strategy <sup>3</sup> to bring nature back	

# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## WHAT IS PROPOSED

Legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS)

Option 1:  
Baseline, no  
particular action  
at EU level

Option 2:  
Voluntary  
approaches, only  
soft law to  
encourage to  
transition

Option 3:  
Legislative  
action at EU  
level, but only  
by reinforcing  
existing  
legislation

Option 4:  
Comprehensive  
legislative  
framework on  
food  
sustainability  
that applies to  
all EU  
legislations => a  
**Regulation**

Clearly the favored option by the  
Commission=> it's confirmed





# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## WHAT IS DG SANTE IS CURRENTLY PROPOSING

### Elements to be included in FSFS Regulation

- **Lex generalis:** will serve as basis when assessing the sustainability elements of other EU legislation => if sustainability included in a legislation, criteria if not specified will refer to the FSFS
- **General objectives, definitions, principles:** food system, sustainable food systems, sustainable diet,....

+

### 3 additional specific elements

- Mandatory minimum sustainability requirements
- Sustainability labelling
- Minimum mandatory requirements for public procurement

- 
- Push measure
  - Pull measures

# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## QUESTION TO SPEAKERS

*We sometimes hear the message that we should drastically reduce livestock and shift to a full plant-based diet to preserve the environment. Does it make sense from a sustainability point of view to disconnect livestock from crop production?*

*The European Beating Cancer Plan proposed the European Commission encourages to drastically reduce red meat consumption as it is linked to acute cancer risk. Is this really true? Should we replace red meat to improve people' health?*



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## QUESTION TO SPEAKERS

*Many organisations claims that livestock production and its GHG emissions is one of the main contributors to climate change. Is this the reality? Is reducing livestock the key solution to decrease GHG emissions? Would lab-grown food be the solution for a more ecological source of complex proteins?*

*I believe that we can all agree that it is possible to improve the environmental sustainability of our food production. When it comes to livestock, would the solution be to fix specific objectives for the whole sector?*



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## QUESTION TO SPEAKERS

*We see more and more companies proposing plant-based products imitating (with form, colour, taste, marketing) products from animal origin and claiming their benefits for people's health. What are your views regarding those types of products? What are their benefits?*

*The Commission is now working with the Green Deal and all its initiatives to improve the sustainability of our food system and society as a whole. We can see that those initiatives, like the revision of the European Emission Directive or the Promotion Policy, especially target the livestock. What would be the best solution to improve the sustainability of the livestock sector, create incentives for improvement or new obligations? The carrot or the stick? And what would be the consequences of the chose method in the context of a globalized market?*



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## QUESTION TO SPEAKERS

*As mentioned, the Commission intends to create a framework to define and enhance the sustainability of EU food systems. In your opinion, what would be the 2 most important elements to integrate to such framework and definition to ensure that the EU can produce more sustainably and in particular for livestock?*





# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## COPA-COGECA APPROACH TO FSFS

We fully agree with the objective

We believe each agricultural sector can contribute

Take into account the 3 pillars of sustainability is key

It will have a cost and it cannot only be bear by primary producers



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## POINTS FOR COPA-COGECA TO INTEGRATE IN FSFS

1. Recognition of sustainable agricultural practices other than organic
2. Tools for a better distribution of costs and benefits in the food chain
3. Dedicated budget to compensate for the extra production costs
4. No one size fits all solution when it comes to environmental sustainability: we have to take into account regional, sectorial and the different methods of production specificities
5. Crops and livestock go together, it's an ecosystem, stigmatizing one will hurt the other



# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## POINTS FOR COPA-COGECA TO INTEGRATE IN FSFS

All sectors and methods of production can contribute to improve environmental sustainability, but not at the same level on the same aspects

### Example wit beef

Intensive beef fattening in Northern Italy

Reduction of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions with feed additives

Optimization of energy use due to concentration

Use of co-products from the food industry nearby

All can contribute, but not in the same way

Need flexibility to allow to maximize contribution

Extensive beef in south of France

Contribution to biodiversity and landscape preservation

Contribution to carbon removal with grassland

Make food out of absolute grass land

# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

## Example of production costs: animal welfare

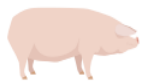
Animal welfare labelling systems proposed by the German authorities and the associated production costs for each of its tiers, providing the selling price necessary to cover the extra costs

Status quo



0.75 m<sup>2</sup>

Stage 1



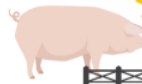
0.9 m<sup>2</sup>

Stage 2



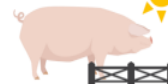
1.1 m<sup>2</sup>

Stage 3



1.5 m<sup>2</sup>

EU-Eco



2.3 m<sup>2</sup>

Required selling price for farms  
per kg of pork  
1.70 €



+ 0.15 €



+ 0.19 €



+ 0.27 €

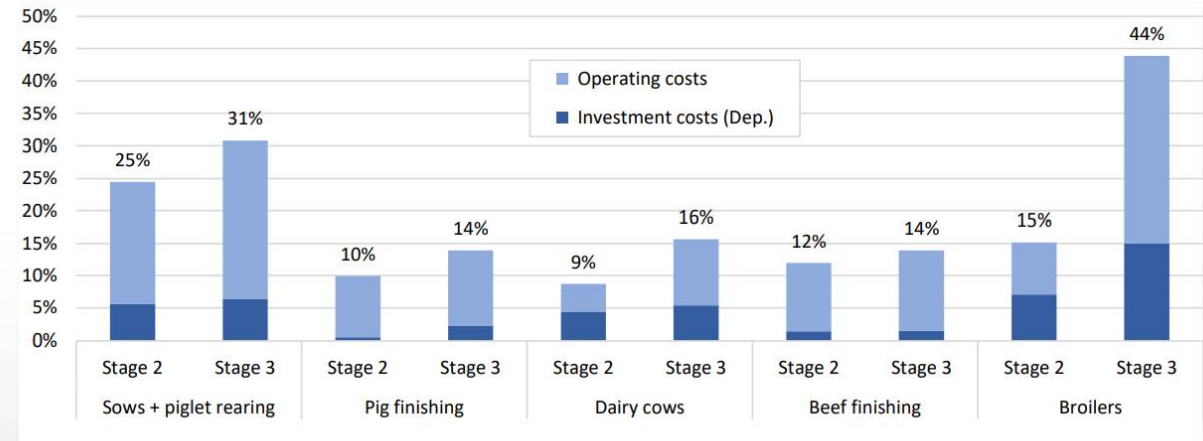


+ 0.31 €



## Additional costs in stages 2 and 3

Additional costs  
compared to Stage 0 (Baseline)  
(in %)



**Stage 1:** Beef finishing and broilers much lower than Stage 2, other species wise similar to Stage 2.

**Organic:** Finishing pigs slightly above Stage 3, sows significantly above Stage 3 (lower performance).

Source: Own calculations

New sustainability requirements are possible, but it has a cost

Who will pay?

Consumers, the market?

Consumers want more sustainable food products, but they are not ready to pay for it

Consumption of organic products **down by 15% in France, 5% in Germany**

Can we count on the market?

Producers?

Already on thin ice, many farmer stopping because it is not profitable anymore

It will lead to an **externalization of production and a sustainability leakage**

Is this really what we want?

We need a dedicated budget for FSFS objectives

More sustainability is possible, but it is a society choice





# The Framework for Sustainable Food Systems: state of play

Copa-Cogeca and its farmers and agri-cooperatives are determined to contribute to FSFS, but key elements need to be taken into accounts

Our sectorial Working Parties are already working on their contribution

1. Recognition of sustainable agricultural practices other than organic
2. Tools for a better distribution of costs and benefits in the food chain
3. Dedicated budget to compensate for the extra production costs
4. No one size fits all solution when it comes to environmental sustainability
5. Crops and livestock go together, it's an ecosystem, stigmatizing one will hurt the other



## 9. AOB



A man with a beard, wearing a striped shirt and blue shorts, is smiling while riding a large brown water buffalo. The buffalo is standing in a dry, grassy field with some trees in the background. The sky is a clear, warm orange-brown color.

Thank you for your attention !

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