

Instructions

1. You will be randomly handed out a coloured wristband.
2. Sit down with people with the same wristband colour as you.

Green	In Favour
Pink	Against
Orange	Middle/Central
Purple	Undecided

3. Discuss with your neighbours your assigned positions for 10 minutes.
4. After this, we will discuss the Proposal for 50 min. Each of you has a maximum of 45 seconds to speak. **You're highly encouraged to give your opinion on another speaker's speech during the debate session.**
5. In order to change the discussed proposal, now we will discuss the amendments. For this, make reference to the amendments below. Make sure to advocate for your position!
6. Now we vote on the amendments! Vote in favour of those you support, vote against those you object to. Stay true to your convictions!
7. Now it is time to decide on the proposal - Vote in favour or against the newly amended proposal.

Schedule

Time	Activity
10min	Introduction to EU Decision-making Institutions
5min	Commission introduction to topic
10min	Discussion within groups on topic
40min	Debate on Topic (Presenting your views and responding to the views of others)
10min	Ice-breaker
30min	Debate on Amendments (Presenting your views on the list of amendments)
10min	Vote on Amendments
5min	Vote on Final Proposal as amended by you!

Reminders:

- Interpreting Services are available! You are highly encouraged to speak in French, German, Spanish or Italian, please announce this first and then wait for 3 seconds for everyone to put on their headphones.
- When using interpreting, please be reminded to speak not too fast.

"Towards a sustainable food system: The European Union's strategy"

Introduction

The EU food system has reached high levels of food security, food safety, and consumer choice, yet it is still not sustainable in terms of environmental, economic, and social factors. Continuing with 'business as usual' puts natural resources, our health, the environment, and the economy at risk. The [European Commission's 'Green Deal,'](#) which includes the ['Farm to Fork' Strategy](#) as one of its core pillars, intends to address this by developing a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system.

Read more: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0e1e3c7c-5acd-11eb-b59f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Animal products, especially red meat, require unsustainable levels of input at the current level of production; agricultural contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and food waste are major issues that require attention. Public health is suffering as a result of excessive meat consumption. Therefore, it is necessary for all sectors to align environmental (food, energy, and water) and health-related goals. As technology or production gains are unlikely to meet demand alone in 2050, considerable dietary changes as well as significant reductions in food waste will be necessary.

Read more:

<https://www.sapea.info/wp-content/uploads/sustainable-food-system-report.pdf>

European society and its food system face three challenges:

- 1) ensuring a healthy diet for all,**
- 2) reducing and coping with climate change, and**
- 3) maintaining and restoring habitats for biodiversity and ecosystem services.**

Although the European food system is strong, it does not provide sustainable diets. Sustainable diets are described by FAO (The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) as those with low environmental impacts that contribute to food and nutrition security as well as a healthy life for current and future generations.

Read more:

<https://eeac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Towards-a-sustainable-food-system--An-EEAC-Network-Position-Paper-PV.pdf>

Did you know?

- [The population of the world, which is currently 7.6 billion, is expected to increase to 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050, and 11.2 billion in 2100.](#)
- [Unless significant improvements in food systems are made and food waste and consumption trends are being addressed, the population growth until 2050 means that 50–70% more food will need to be produced to meet the predicted level of demand.](#)
- [At the current rate of population growth, over 800 million people worldwide experience chronic undernourishment and daily food insecurity, while over 1.9 billion adults are overweight, over 650 million of whom are considered obese. This paradox is sometimes referred to as the "double burden" of malnutrition.](#)

How is the EU pushing for a sustainable food system?

The Framework for a Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS) is one of the flagship initiatives of the Farm to Fork Strategy. It will be introduced by the European Commission by the end of 2023. Its objective is to quicken and facilitate the transition to sustainable food systems. Additionally, it will prioritize building cooperation and coordination at the national and EU levels, mainstreaming sustainability into all food-related policies, and enhancing the resilience of food systems.

Read more: https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy/legislative-framework_en

It is a task we must all accept to successfully transform the European food system while ensuring its long-term sustainability and resilience. It is crucial to provide more support to EU farmers through the current mechanisms of the [Common Agricultural Policy](#) in order to maintain European output and decrease reliance. To produce more with fewer resources, farmers need the best equipment and supplies.

Read more: <https://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/building-a-more-resilient-sustainable-european-food-system-a-challenge-accepted/>

The approach towards a sustainable food system in the EU is three-fold ensuring:

- Availability of healthy, sustainable diets for all European consumers at prices that reflect their true cost in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle.
- Food is produced in sufficient quantities using procedures that result in the best environmental performance reasonably achievable and generate climate-resilient, healthy agriculture.
- The food system is as inclusive as possible, with balanced connections between food chain actors, resulting in livelihoods with fair incomes and working conditions for farmers and employees.

Read more:

<https://eeac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Towards-a-sustainable-food-system--An-EEAC-Network-Position-Paper-PV.pdf>

Stances on the *European Union's strategy towards a sustainable food system*

In Favour

- Droughts, heatwaves, floods, and wildfires experienced in 2022 and in recent years are expected to worsen as temperatures across the planet increase, while pollinator loss, natural insect predator loss, and soil erosion already pose serious threats to food supply. [To ensure long-term food availability in the EU, there is a need to increase our agricultural systems' resilience and adaptive capabilities.](#)
- Future food demand will rise on a worldwide scale. It is not sufficient to merely boost productivity in a sustainable way in order to meet this demand. [In order to transition from linear mass consumption to a more circular economy, we also need to shift our norms, routines, and habits.](#)

Against

- This proposal is [too ambitious](#) and the shift to a sustainable food system with the best interests for the producers and consumers will impose an uneven and unfair burden across EU member countries where they have to comply with EU regulations on this.

- The proposal might result in suppliers and producers in the food chain to [bear some of the economic burden](#) of transitioning to a sustainable food system.

Middle/Central

- To date, scientific advice on unsustainable practices has been dominated by insights from natural and technological sciences and has focused primarily on improving efficiencies and productivity within the food system. However, the processes that shape our [interactions with food are also social](#), and considering these is essential if we wish to design and enact impactful policy to support sustainability. This proposal does not satisfactorily address such social interactions necessary to shape the intended change.
- There is a lack of [societal awareness](#) about consuming food sustainably and the need for it.

Undecided

- Consumers are often unwilling to transition to a healthier and more sustainable diet because of [higher costs](#) involved.
- [Access to safe and nutritious food](#) remains a problem for parts of the EU population.

List of Amendments

In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers shall be financially and technologically assisted by their Member State to transition their production methods to more sustainable farming.
Against	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger suppliers in the supply chain shall transfer a significant percentage of profit from sales to farmers who are the primary producers of food.
Middle/Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social awareness programmes on sustainably consuming food shall be introduced in Member States across the EU.
Undecided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to affordable, safe and nutritious food for all across the EU shall be ensured.