



# FEBA EU

# MONITORING REPORT

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024



### In this issue:

#### Council of the EU

Belgian Presidency / p1

#### European Commission

Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture / p2

#### European Commission

EU grants to support food waste prevention actions by stakeholders and Member States / p2

#### European Stakeholders

Joint letter calling on the European Parliament to strengthen food waste reduction targets in the Waste Framework Directive revision / p3

#### Euronews

State of Play Food Policy / p5

#### European Parliament

Advancing Food Loss Technologies and Policies / p6

## Belgian Presidency

With the New Year, the rotation of the presidency of the Council of the European Union started. After having held the presidency for six months, Spain is passed it to Belgium.

**From 1 January to 30 June 2024, Belgium will preside over the Council of the EU.** During its presidency, its role will be to coordinate the Council's operations and promote collaboration between the Member States. All of this will take place under the presidency slogan "**Protect, Strengthen and Prepare**".

Once the Belgian presidency comes to an end, the next Member State to hold the presidency will be Hungary. The six priorities of the Belgian presidency are the following: **Defending the rule of law, democracy, and unity, strengthening competitiveness, pursuing a green and just transition, reinforcing social and health agenda, protecting people and borders, and promoting a global Europe.**



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When it comes to Employment and Social Affairs, **special emphasis will be placed on socio-economic governance.** Furthermore, the Presidency will devote its efforts to **consolidating the European Pillar of Social Rights**, setting forth a robust social agenda for 2024-2029.

With regards to agriculture and fisheries, **ensuring food security and autonomy** will be core objectives of the Presidency, as well as further **enhancing the sustainability of food production and consumption.** Particular attention will further be paid to animal health and animal welfare, and to the need for resilient forests.

Read more [here](#).



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## Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture

FEBA participated in the launch of the **Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture** initiated by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on 25 January 2024, a new forum mandated to shape a **shared vision for the future of the EU's farming and food system.**



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The Strategic Dialogue **brings together key stakeholders from across the whole agri-food chain**, including farmers, co-operatives, agri-food businesses, and rural communities, as well as non-governmental organisations and civil society representatives, financial institutions and academia.

By combining different perspectives, the Dialogue aims to **foster the creation of new solutions and to bring about a common vision for the future of the EU agriculture and food sector by summer 2024.**

Read more [here](#).

## EU grants to support food waste prevention actions

Fighting against food waste and supporting the sustainable production of food are some of the key objectives of the EU Single Market Programme's food strand.

As part of the Single Market Programme, the European Commission in collaboration with the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) has launched grants to support food

waste prevention actions by stakeholders and Member States in 2022 and 2023.

In December 2023, the Commission adopted the work programme for the Single Market Programme for 2024-2027. There have been changes to the scope and frequency of the food waste prevention grants.

For example, **Member State grants are no longer limited to food waste monitoring activities, but can also cover the development and/or implementation of actions part of national food waste prevention programmes.**

For these grants, the call for applications will be launched annually, on the basis of an invitation to apply sent to relevant competent authorities. **For the stakeholder grants, the call for applications will be open to all interested actors and will be launched in 2024 and in 2026.**

The call for applications will be launched in 2024 with a total a budget of 2 million € for Member State grants and **2 million € for stakeholder grants.**

You can find more information on the food waste prevention grants in Annex III to the Commission Implementing Decision C(2023)8926 - on the financing of the Programme and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2027 ([available here](#)).



# Joint letter calling on the European Parliament to strengthen food waste reduction targets in the Waste Framework Directive revision

65 non-profit and business organisations from 22 EU countries **call on the European Parliament to introduce ambitious, legally binding targets to halve food waste by 2030 in the ongoing revision of the EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD).**

**Reducing food waste is one of the most impactful measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions.** Because of this, **ambitious food waste reduction targets represent a unique opportunity to help achieve EU climate goals.**

Together with 65 European organisations, the 'Prevent Waste Coalition on Food Waste' (composed of the European Environmental Bureau, Feedback EU, Safe Food Advocacy Europe, Too Good To Go, and Zero Waste Europe) is therefore calling for legally binding targets for EU Member States to reduce their food loss and waste by 50% by 2030, at all stages of the supply chain.

Please find [here](#) the full Joint Letter.

# Euronews highlights the state of play when it comes to food policy

The [policy analysis](#) by Euronews highlights the progress of different policy commitments of the Farm to Fork strategy.

Significant **delays and cancellations were identified when it comes to 15 out of 31 actions promised,**

At the moment, according to Euronews, **15 proposals are not published, 1 withdrawn, 8 finished, 2 almost concluded, and 5 under discussion**, see Fig. 1. These entail the directive on Labelling, Carbon Removals, New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), Animal Welfare (for transport of animals), EU Seed Law, and Food Waste.

Overall, the future of many of these proposals is uncertain with the upcoming elections. However it is important to mention that the **absence of the Sustainable Food Systems Law and the Food Waste Reduction Targets currently being tabled**, weakens the outcomes of the Farm to Fork strategy immensely.

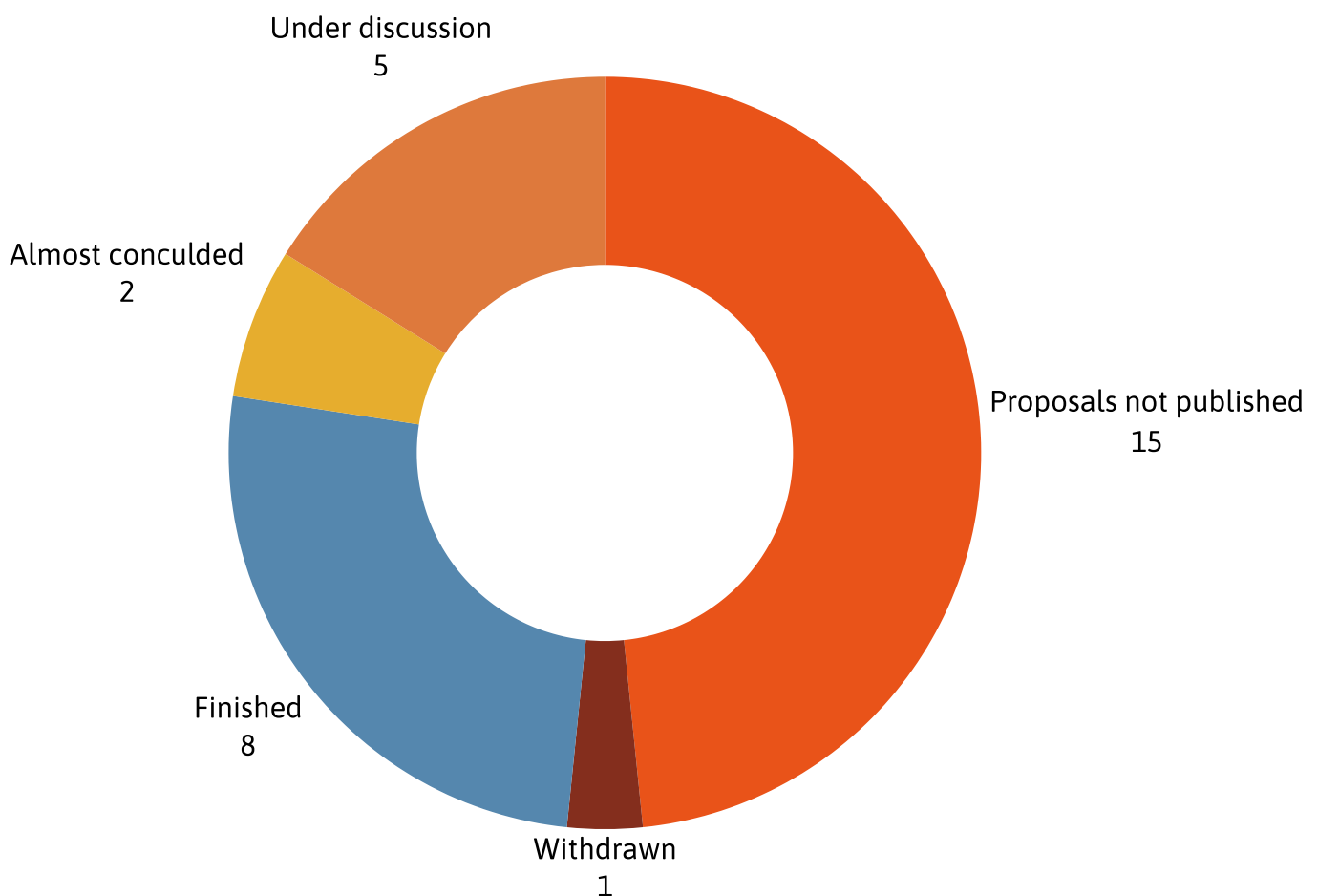


Fig. 1: Outcomes of the Farm to Fork proposals

# Advancing food loss technologies and policies

FEBA participated in the event “**Advancing food loss technologies and policies**” organised by [Competere.eu](https://www.competere.eu) in collaboration with Trane Technologies, hosted at the European Parliament in Brussels by the Greens/EFA MEP Rosa d’Amato.

The round table was attended by MEPs (Rosa D’Amato Greens/EFA, Salvatore De Meo EPP, Ines Vaider EPP), member of the European Commission (Alexandra Nikolakopoulou DG Sante) and many others, including FEBA CEO Esteban Arriaga.

The focus of **the event was on food waste occurring during transport**, to emphasize efforts needed to reduce it along the global ‘cold chain’. Consumer food waste being only one of many components, **efforts should be scaled up when it comes to food waste along the production and processing stages** at a time time when food insecurity affects many.

Through **combined efforts, technology, and the work of Food Banks**, food waste could be reduced and those in need helped.



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