



# FEBA EU

# MONITORING REPORT

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## In this issue:

### European Parliament

Vote on the Revision of the Waste Framework Directive / p1

### ENVI Council

Revision of the Waste Framework / p2

### European Stakeholders

Joint Statement on VAT relief on donations / p3

### European Stakeholders

FOODRUS Final Event / p3

### Horizon Europe

Food2030 Conference / p4

### ESFA

ESF+ CoP on Material Support in Athens / p4

### European Commission

State of Food Security in the EU / p5

### European Stakeholders

La Hulpe Declaration / p5

### European Stakeholders

Event on Food Waste and Food Donation / p6

## European Parliament voted on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive

On 13 March 2024 MEPs adopted their first reading position on the proposed revision of the Waste Framework with 514 votes in favour, 20 against and 91 abstentions.

The text reflects the report adopted by the ENVI Committee in February: They propose **higher binding waste reduction targets** to be met at the national level by 31 December 2030 – at least **20% in food processing and manufacturing** (instead of 10% proposed by the Commission) and **40% per capita in retail, restaurants, food services and households** (instead of 30%).



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Rapporteur [Anna Zalewska \(ECR, PL\)](#) said: “Parliament has come up with targeted solutions to reduce food waste, **such as promoting “ugly” fruits and veggies, keeping an eye on unfair market practices, clarifying date labelling and donating unsold-but-consumable food.** For textiles, we also want to include non-household products, carpets and mattresses, as well as sales via online platform.”

As mentioned in [FEBA’s position paper](#), we welcome that **food donation for human consumption** is mentioned among the appropriate measures that the Member States shall take to prevent the generation of food waste. FEBA and its members believe that this can be a promising tool for achieving SDG Target 12.3 to halve food waste per capita by 2030. However, this would require **targets of a 50% reduction at the EU-level**, thus more ambitious than foreseen in the current proposal. In addition, FEBA strongly recommends the **coverage of the entire food supply chain**, i.e. addressing also food loss at the primary production stage. FEBA encourages a more ambitious approach, which is necessary for the achievement of SDG 12.3 in the European Union.

The file will be followed up by the new Parliament after the 6-9 June European elections.

Find the original press release [here](#).



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# ENVI Council on the Revision of the Waste Framework Directive

On 25 March 2024 the **ENVI Council took place, which brings together the Environment Ministers of the EU.** The Belgian Environment Minister chairs the meeting. They discussed different topics, like the exchange of Ministers’ views on Europe’s 2040 climate targets.

This discussion served as a vision for Europe and its citizens which includes a competitive European industry, affordable zero and low-carbon energy, just transition and sustainable food production. **In addition to that, the Council also addressed the waste directive, which focuses on two resource-intensive sectors: textiles and food.**

However, The file will be followed up by the new Parliament after the 6-9 June European elections. Moreover, the ministers discuss the proposal for a regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution. As last point the Belgian Presidency informed the Council on the regulation for a monitoring framework for resilient European forests.

Find the original press release [here](#).



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# Joint Statement on VAT relief on donations

On 11 March 2024 **FEBA published a Joint Statement on VAT relief for donations together with EuroCommerce, Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry and Toy Industries of Europe.** In many EU countries, companies are facing incremental VAT costs when donating surplus food and non-food products to charities and other charitable causes.

Even though the **EU VAT Directive gives Member States the possibility to define VAT relief conditions for donations to charitable organisations**, only a handful of countries make use of this VAT neutralisation option. Removing VAT on charitable donations could help manage surplus inventory sustainably and Member States can create taxation laws that are in line with the Green Deal's goals.

**We ask the EU Commission to play a leading role in encouraging Member States to leverage VAT neutralisation options provided by the EU VAT Directive, allowing unsold food and non-food products to be supplied for free to recognised donation organisations, without triggering an incremental VAT cost for the donor.**

Read the full statement [here](#).



# FOODRUS Final Event



On 13 March 2024 FEBA participated in the final event of the **FOODRUS Horizon 2020 Project.** FOODRUS was a 3.5-year project coordinated by the University of Deusto, with the objective of **limiting food losses and waste and to promoting resource efficiency across all stages of the agri-food value chain.**

The project tested 23 circular solutions analysing agri-food value chains in three pilots' regions:

- a cross-regional Spanish pilot focused on the vegetables and prepared salads chain;
- a Danish pilot concentrated on the meat and fish chain;
- and a Slovak pilot analysing the bread chain.

During the event, the outcomes of these pilots were presented and discussed. As part of the Advisory Board of FOODRUS, FEBA was happy to observe and contribute to this project in the past years.

Read more [here](#).



# Food2030 Conference



On 5 March 2023 FEBA attended the Food2023 Networks Conference. The FOOD 2030 Platform is a common platform for all projects, partnerships, networks, living labs, communities of practice and other initiatives working on transforming the food system for the benefit of the people and the planet. **FEBA is consortium partner of the FoodCLIC project.**

It is being developed as a part of the CLEVERFOOD project funded by Horizon Europe. CLEVERFOOD coordinates and supports cross-project collaboration and knowledge sharing by establishing these networks. The idea is to bring all the existing initiatives together for maximum leverage in transforming the food system.

Read more [here](#).

# ESF+ CoP on Material Support in Athens

**FEBA attended the latest meeting of the ESF+ Community of Practice (CoP) on Material Support that was held in Athens on 10 and 11 April 2024. Following the title Involving the target group: from decision-making to the provision of support, the agenda was designed to receive insights and spark discussion around that topic.**

In her opening remarks, both Cristiana Costinescu (DG EMPL, European Commission) and Sofia Zacharaki (Minister of Family and Social Cohesion, Greece) stressed the importance of leaving no one behind and paying particular attention to the most vulnerable societal groups. A subsequent panel discussion focused on the material support system in Greece with speakers representing different public authorities outlining achievements and best practices regarding implementing the European Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and the current European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

Following a keynote speech by the University of Paris Nanterre on the theoretical framework of the participation of vulnerable groups, a panel discussion on initiatives aimed at involving the target group at various levels in different countries took place, featuring speakers from the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, EAPN Portugal, Les Restos du Coeur, and St Kevin's Family Resource Centre (Dublin). Day one of the meeting was concluded with an interactive workshop where CoP members used participatory methodologies to explore different approaches and address challenges related to involving the end recipients of material support.

The second day was coined by site visits to different locations across the Attika region, among them a municipality-run community centre and charitable organisations carrying out accompanying measures for vulnerable societal groups such as children, women, or Roma people. The CoP meeting was concluded by closing remarks from Simona Pulbere (DG EMPL, European Commission) who stressed the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the ESF+ and improve the well-being of its beneficiaries.

Read more [here](#).



## State of Food Security in the EU

This report was published in April 2024 through inputs from the expert group EFSCM (European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism). Especially the chapter that zooms into the inability to afford a proper meal is worth mentioning.

The report outlines trends that were observed in the year 2022 with regards to inflation and the risk of poverty. The poly-crisis effect of geopolitical conflicts, climate change and COVID-19 spotlighted the fragility of food security.

According to the authors, **households at risk of poverty are more than twice as likely to be unable to afford a proper meal compared to average income households.**

The report also highlights the situation in the Member States. **The inability to afford a meal was the highest in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Hungary.**

Read more [here](#).

## La Hulpe Declaration

On 16 April 2024 the **high-level conference on the European Pillar of Social Rights** took place in La Hulpe, Belgium and was organised by the **Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU**. In the [Declaration on the Future of the European Pillar of Social Rights](#), the Commission and other signatories pledged to continue implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights and further strengthen employment and social dimensions amidst digital and green transitions and demographic shifts.

Key outcomes of the conference were the need to **empower social partners and collective bargaining and acknowledges the role of civil society, in particular when it comes to fighting social exclusion and inequalities.** In addition to that, the relevance of equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion was highlighted. Participants also agreed that the Pillar will continue to guide national and EU actions to address employment, skills and social challenges, and to foster upward convergence in working and living conditions in the EU.

Read more [here](#).

# Event on Food Waste and Food Donation

On 12 April the FEBA team attended the event “Food Waste and Food Donation – Charting Progress and Future Directions” at the European Commission.

During the event, Prof. Broad Leib, founder and director of the Harvard Food Law Policy Clinic (FLPC), highlighted **key global themes crucial to addressing** food waste and promoting food recovery. She shared the presentation of [The Global Food Donation Policy Atlas](#) project. The event included the participation of various experts, from academia to the EU institutions and civil society, shedding light on innovative approaches to food sustainability that hold relevance not only to European policy agendas but also to broader international strategies.

The CEO of European Food Banks Federation, Esteban Arriga spoke about the **perspective of civil society working directly on the ground, highlighting the need to support Food Banks in their activities to reduce food waste, fulfilling their environmental mission reminding the audience to not forget the social aspect of the activities of Food Banks.**

Professor Beatrice La Porta, Fulbright Schuman Visiting Scholar, Università degli Studi di Palermo shared insights into legal barriers to food waste prevention and food donation.

Read more [here](#).



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