We, the undersigned members of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, call on the European Commission, Council and Parliament to take action to set targets to halve EU food waste by 2030, from farm to fork.

We would like the European Commission, Council and Parliament to take note of the following recommendations, during the triilogue negotiations on the proposal revising Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC:

The objection that food waste targets cannot be set until after a definition or methodology are developed is not valid. The European Council should back EU food waste targets for the following reasons:

- A methodology for measuring food waste does not need to be in place before EU food waste reduction targets are adopted and implemented. It will take EU member states at least two years to transpose the revised Waste Framework Directive into national legislation once it is adopted at the EU level, and the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste (FLW Platform) is scheduled to develop a methodology for measuring food waste by the end of 2018. Therefore, the methodology will be developed in time for Member States to use it for their food waste measurement, and measure their progress towards meeting the food waste reduction targets included in the legislation.
- There are clear guidelines available internationally to develop food waste definitions and measurement methodologies, such as the Food Loss and Waste Protocol and the WRI Guidance Note on SDG 12.3, which the EU could easily adapt to ensure an EU methodology is ready by 2018.
- The FLW Platform has actually been asked by the Commission to wait for the results of the triilogue to define the scope of the food waste definition and methodology for food waste measurement. The Commission has thus delayed the FLW Platform from creating a methodology until after the triilogue negotiations are concluded.

We propose the following timeline for setting EU food waste reduction targets, which is in line with the European Parliament’s proposals (amendments 98 and 149):

- 2017: Targets to reduce EU food waste by 50% by 2030, from farm to fork, are adopted into the Waste Framework Directive through agreement at the triilogue negotiations.
- 2018: The EU methodology for measuring food waste is finalised. Note: this is slightly later than proposed by the European Parliament, to allow time for a considered process, but still gives plenty of time for the methodology to be integrated into targets by 2019/2020.
- 2019/2020: Food waste targets have been transposed into national legislation by EU member states. Data begins to be gathered on EU food waste, using the methodology developed by the FLW Platform, and this data is used as the baseline against which reductions are thereafter measured.

We call for targets to be set to reduce EU food waste by 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030, from farm to fork:

- There is a clear international consensus emerging that the SDG 12.3 should be interpreted as farm to fork. Liz Goodwin, member of Champions 12.3 and Senior Fellow and Director, Food Loss and Waste at the World Resources Institute (WRI), one of the organisations behind the Food Loss and Waste Protocol, has recently stated: "Given the economic, social and environmental benefits of tackling food loss and waste, we should aspire for companies and nation states to halve food loss and waste from the point it is ready to harvest through to consumer." The WRI’s full recommendations of a farm to fork interpretation of SDG 12.3 are outlined in this Guidance Document, and have been supported by Tristram Stuart of Feedback and Dave Lewis of Tesco, also members of Champions 12.3.
- Pre-retail food waste, including farms, should be included within the Waste Framework Directive food waste reduction targets, to ensure a harmonised approach to food waste reduction. This does not entail state control over production levels (which will naturally vary from year to year) or targets for individual farms, but EU member state targets to ensure that a higher proportion of edible food that is produced gets to human or animal consumption. However, if food waste reductions on farms must fall under CAP, DG Agri should ensure that they set targets through CAP to reduce food waste on farms by 50% by 2030, and that they collaborate highly with DG Sante to deliver these reductions.
- To reflect that external actors like retailers often cause food waste in their suppliers, it is vital that measures to reduce food waste are collaborative and include support from retailers and buyers to their suppliers to reduce their food waste and help them get their edible produce sold to market. It must also be harmonised with the Commission’s draft legislation to protect suppliers from Unfair Trading Practices, because unfair trading practices like last minute order cancellations often lead to food waste and damage farmers’ income simultaneously.

We also support the introduction of a food waste hierarchy, and a review of making the EU food waste reduction targets binding by 2020.

67 organisations from 19 EU countries, and over 100,000 people also support these proposals - please see this campaign statement, policy paper and full list of amendments for more information.

Signed by: Feedback, Slow Food, Healthcare Without Harm Europe, FoodWIN - members of the FLW Platform