



MINISTERIO  
DE AGRICULTURA,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

- TRIBUNAL CALIFICADOR –  
PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO, POR EL  
SISTEMA GENERAL DE ACCESO LIBRE, EN EL  
CUERPO NACIONAL VETERINARIO CONVOCADO  
POR RESOLUCIÓN DE 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2019,  
DE LA SUBSECRETARÍA

The farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the Green Deal. It addresses comprehensively the challenges of sustainable food systems and recognises the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. The Strategy is also central to the Commission's agenda to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All citizens and operators across value chains, in the EU and elsewhere, should benefit from a just transition, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of a robust and resilient food system that functions in all circumstances, and is capable of ensuring access to a sufficient supply of affordable food for citizens.

European food is already a global standard for food that is safe, plentiful, and nutritious and of high quality. This is the result of years of EU policymaking to protect human, animal and plant health, and of the efforts of farmers, fishers and aquaculture producers. Now European food should also become the global standard for sustainability. This strategy aims to reward those farmers, fishers and other operators in the food chain who have already undergone the transition to sustainable practices, enable the transition for the others, and create additional opportunities for their businesses. EU agriculture is the only major system in the world that reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (by 20% since 1990). However, even within the EU, this path has been neither linear nor homogenous across Member States.

The Climate sets out the objective for a climate neutral Union in 2050. The Commission will come forward by September 2020 with a 2030 climate target plan, to increase the GHG emission reduction target towards 50 or 55% compared with 1990 levels. The Farm to Fork Strategy lays down a new approach to ensure that agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and the food value chain contribute appropriately to this process.

The EU's goals are to reduce the environmental and climate footprint of the EU food system and strengthen its resilience, ensure food security in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss and lead a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork and tapping into new opportunities. This means:

- Ensuring that the food chain, covering food production, transport, distribution, marketing and consumption, has a neutral or positive environmental impact, preserving and restoring the land, freshwater and sea-based resources on which the food system depends;
- Ensuring food security, nutrition and public health – making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, nutritious, sustainable food that upholds high standards of safety and quality, plant health, and animal health and welfare, while meeting dietary needs and food preferences;



MINISTERIO  
DE AGRICULTURA,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

- TRIBUNAL CALIFICADOR –  
PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO, POR EL  
SISTEMA GENERAL DE ACCESO LIBRE, EN EL  
CUERPO NACIONAL VETERINARIO CONVOCADO  
POR RESOLUCIÓN DE 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2019,  
DE LA SUBSECRETARÍA

- Preserving the affordability of food, while generating fairer economic returns in the supply chain, so that ultimately the most sustainable food also becomes the most affordable, fostering the competitiveness of the EU supply sector, promoting fair trade, creating new business opportunities, while ensuring integrity of the single market and occupational health and safety.

All actors of the food chain must play their part in achieving the sustainability of food chain. Farmers, fishers and aquaculture producers need to transform their production methods more quickly, and make the best use of nature-based, technological, digital, and space-based solutions to deliver better climate and environmental results, increase climate resilience and reduce and optimise the use of inputs (e.g. pesticides, fertilisers). These solutions require human and financial investment, but also promise higher returns by creating added value and by reducing costs.

Food packaging plays a key role in the sustainability of food systems. The Commission will revise the food contact materials legislation to improve food safety and public health (in particular in reducing the use of hazardous chemicals), support the use of innovative and sustainable packaging solutions using environmentally-friendly, re-usable and recyclable materials, and contribute to food waste reduction.

Research and innovation (R&I) are key drivers in accelerating the transition to sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems from primary production to consumption. R&I can help develop and test solutions, overcome barriers and uncover new market opportunities. Under Horizon 2020, the Commission is preparing an additional call for proposals for Green Deal priorities in 2020 for a total of around EUR 1 billion.

New knowledge and innovations will also scale up agro-ecological approaches in primary production through a dedicated partnership on agro-ecology living laboratories. This will contribute to reducing the use of pesticides, fertilisers and antimicrobials. To speed up innovation and accelerate knowledge transfer, the Commission will work with Member States to strengthen the role of the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) in the Strategic Plans. In addition, the European Regional Development Fund will invest, through smart specialisation, in innovation and collaboration along the food value chains.

Appropriate EU policies, including trade policy will be used to support and be part of the EU's ecological transition. The EU will seek to ensure that there is an ambitious sustainability chapter in all EU bilateral trade agreements. It will ensure full implementation and enforcement of the trade and sustainable development provisions in all trade agreements, including through the EU Chief Trade Enforcement Officer.



MINISTERIO  
DE AGRICULTURA,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN

- TRIBUNAL CALIFICADOR –  
PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO, POR EL  
SISTEMA GENERAL DE ACCESO LIBRE, EN EL  
CUERPO NACIONAL VETERINARIO CONVOCADO  
POR RESOLUCIÓN DE 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2019,  
DE LA SUBSECRETARÍA

To reduce the EU's contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation, the Commission will present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market.

Imported food must continue to comply with relevant EU regulations and standards. The Commission will take into account environmental aspects when assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances no longer approved in the EU while respecting WTO standards and obligations. To address the global threat of antimicrobial resistance, products of animal origin imported into the EU will have to comply with strict requirements on the use of antibiotics in line with the recently agreed veterinary medicinal products Regulation.

## CONCLUSIONS

The European Green Deal is an opportunity to reconcile our food system with the needs of the planet and to respond positively to Europeans' aspirations for healthy, equitable and environmentally-friendly food. The aim of this strategy is to make the EU food system a global standard for sustainability. The transition to sustainable food systems requires a collective approach involving public authorities at all levels of governance (including cities, rural and coastal communities), private-sector actors across the food value chain, non-governmental organisations, social partners, academics and citizens.

The Commission invites all citizens and stakeholders to engage in a broad debate to formulate a sustainable food policy including in national, regional and local assemblies.

The Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to endorse this strategy and contribute to implementing it. The Commission will reach out to citizens on this strategy in a coordinated way to encourage them to participate in transforming our food systems.

The Commission will ensure that the strategy is implemented in close coherence with the other elements of the Green Deal, particularly the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the new CEAP and the Zero Pollution ambition. It will monitor the transition to a sustainable food system so that it operates within planetary boundaries, including progress on the targets and overall reduction of the environmental and climate footprint of the EU food system. It will collect data regularly, including on the basis of Earth observation for a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative impact of all actions in this strategy on competitiveness, the environment and health. It will review this strategy by mid-2023 to assess whether the action taken is sufficient to achieve the objectives or whether additional action is necessary.



*MINISTERIO  
DE AGRICULTURA,  
PESCA Y ALIMENTACIÓN*

*- TRIBUNAL CALIFICADOR –  
PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO, POR EL  
SISTEMA GENERAL DE ACCESO LIBRE, EN EL  
CUERPO NACIONAL VETERINARIO CONVOCADO  
POR RESOLUCIÓN DE 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2019,  
DE LA SUBSECRETARÍA*