

EFSCM

3. Setting the scene

1st regular meeting of the expert group

23 March 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome by DG MARE and DG SANTE
2. Approval of agenda and minutes
3. Setting the scene: EFSCM scope, composition, tasks, schedule of delivery
4. Establishing a workplan for 2022
5. Follow-up on food security impact of the energy and input price increase and of the situation in Ukraine
- 6. Food communication**
7. AOB and closing

EFSCM – Scope (Art. 3) and frequency (Art. 8)

- Based on Commission Decision of 12 November 2021 setting up the group of experts on the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM):

[EUR-Lex - 32021D1115\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

- The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to Union preparedness for, and response to, crises threatening food supply and food security
- The group shall meet at least once a year. In case of urgency, it can be convened by the Commission at any time without prior notice

EFSCM - Composition (Article 4)

1. Members of the group shall be competent/active in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, health policy and food safety or in any matter related to the well functioning of the food supply chain:
 - Competent authorities of each Member State
 - Competent authorities of selected non-EU countries whose food supply chains are closely linked to those of the EU Member States
 - Stakeholders' organisations appointed as a result of a public call for applications
2. Observers

A list of members and observers can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/agri-food-supply-chain/contingency-plan_en#agreendealinitiative

EFSCM - Tasks (Article 2)

1. Provide advice and expertise to the Commission in relation to:
 - the implementation of Union legislation, programmes and policies concerning Union preparedness with regard to food supply and food security crises;
 - cooperation and coordination with Member States, non-EU countries and stakeholders' organisations regarding food supply and food security
2. Exchange experiences and good practices in the organisation of a concerted response to food supply and food security crises, including by providing early monitoring and reporting of threats, crisis evolution, post-crisis assessment and lessons learnt
3. Discuss contingency plans of Member States and non-EU countries
4. Assist the Commission in the preparation of policy initiatives concerning Union preparedness with regard to food supply and food security crises,
5. Develop recommendations relevant to Union preparedness with regard to food supply and food security crises on a case-by-case basis.

EFSCM – Confidentiality (Art. 14, 8 and 9)

- This expert group is non-public – duty for participants not to reveal details of the oral discussion.
- Article 14: All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes **and the participants' submissions**, shall be made available in the Register of expert groups. Exceptions to publication shall only be possible where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
 - Register of expert groups: <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=3829>
- Article 8 (5): In agreement with DG AGRI, DG MARE and DG SANTE, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.
- Article 9 (3): A sub-group composed of Member States' representatives shall be responsible for information exchanges between Member States and the Commission, particularly with regard to confidential information.

EFSCM – Schedule of delivery (action plan)

Actions	Proposed actors	Delivered by
1 Establish a permanent European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM) including a dedicated group of experts involving public authorities from Member States (MS) and non-EU countries as well as stakeholders and its rules of procedures.	COM	Q2/2022
2 Create a network of correspondents from the relevant private sector organisations.	COM / Stakeholders	Q4/2022
3 Periodic reporting on the state of preparedness and activities of the group of experts to other EU institutions and to the general public.	COM	Yearly, as from end 2022
4 Convoke the group of experts regularly and on an ad hoc basis in case of a crisis threatening food supply and food security in the EU.	COM	At least yearly as from Q2/2022
5 Establish the appropriate digital platform to support the EFSCM for exchange of information.	COM	Q4/2022
6 Map the risks and vulnerabilities, including structural issues, of the EU food supply chain and its critical infrastructures among others through a dedicated study.	COM	Q4/2023
7 Develop specific dashboards for the monitoring of food supply and food security.	COM	Q4/2022
8 Carry out a study on the role of information technologies to improve market transparency, in particular in times of crisis.	COM	Q4/2024
9 Develop recommendations:		
on ways to reinforce the diversity of sources of supply between shorter and longer food supply chains;	Group of experts (COM, MS, stakeholders)	Q2/2023
on guidelines for crisis communication on food supply and food security;		Q2/2023
on ways to address or mitigate risks and vulnerabilities, including structural issues putting at risk food supply chains.		Q2/2024

EFSCM – Schedule of delivery cont.

- The Communication (chapter 5.3.1) states that the vulnerability of the food chain may be assessed at sector and EU level through **stress tests** of the different value chains to be organised and coordinated by the Commission, with the active involvement of stakeholder organisations.
- The identification of where food production takes place, with potential high concentration in specific regions, may be done, in cooperation with Member States
- Have a pilot project ready by end of 2022 (COM to approach a few members to be associated)

EFSCM – Organisation in case of emergency

- Action 2 of the action plan foresees the creation of a network of correspondents from the relevant private sector organisations by Q4/2022 → done.
- For emergencies, we will request your approval to share phone numbers and e-mail addresses of main representatives and alternates among members – e-mail to be sent to you.
- Usually, as for the recent ad hoc meeting of 9 March, we would set up an online-meeting (highly likely without interpretation services) and invite members and observers via AGM or by e-mail.

EFSCM – Digital platform outlook

- Action 5 of the action plan foresees the establishment of an ‘appropriate digital platform to support the EFSCM for exchange of information’ by Q4/2022.
- For the time being a CircaBC group has been created for that purpose:
 - CircaBC: [European Commission/Agriculture/EFSCM \(European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism\)](#)
 - For those among you who do not yet have access to this group please
 - go to the CircaBC welcome page and create an EU login to receive an EU username. Click on “Join the Group” and fill in/submit the form with your email and organisation.
 - Alternatively please send your
EU username; first name; last name; email; organisation name to
Marc.Fleureck@ec.europa.eu
- In the longer term the Commission is working on integrating the several existing sectoral IT rapid alert systems built over the years into a cross-policy “EU crisis dashboard”
- Pilot phase planned for May – December 2022; decision on procurement to be taken early 2023

EFSCM – Contacts

For any further information please have a look at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/agri-food-supply-chain/contingency-plan_en#agreendealinitiative

or contact:

AGRI-CONTINGENCY-PLAN-FOOD-SECURITY@ec.europa.eu

4a. Mapping of the risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain

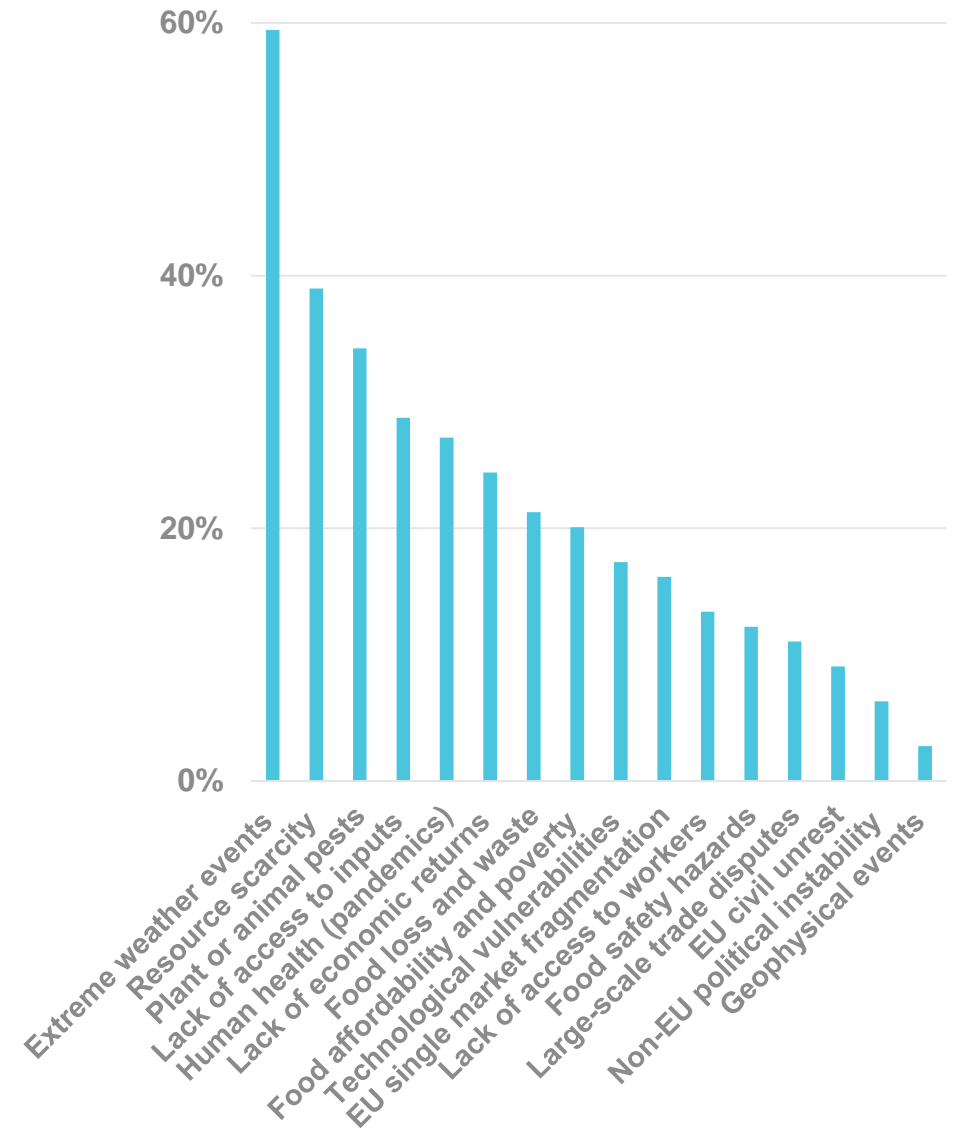
Objectives and timing of the study

- **Objective:** map and analyse vulnerabilities of the EU food supply chain
- **Action 6** of the plan outlined in the annex of the EC communication on the “*Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis*”
- Deadline: 4th quarter 2023
- Study will be implemented by JRC

Approach

• Coverage and focus of the study:

- Mapping risks and vulnerabilities across different sectors, stages of the food chain, MS, international context
- Threats and vulnerabilities identified during the consultation process that led to the Communication of November 2021 will represent an important input for the study
- Ongoing threats (e.g. energy crisis, geopolitical tensions, climate change) as well as future vulnerabilities



Approach

- **Three ways to collect information for the study:**

- **Literature review** on risks and vulnerabilities of the food supply chain
- Analyses of risks and vulnerabilities based on **official statistical data**
- **Semi-structured interviews** with expert group members and other actors from the EU food chain

Next steps

- We would like to ask expert group members to participate at semi-structured interviews (planned implementation: Q4 2022 - Q2 2023)
- The study will be an input for the **Action 9** of the EC communication on the contingency plan aiming at developing recommendations “***on ways to address or mitigate risks and vulnerabilities, including structural issues putting at risk food supply chains***” (deadline: Q2/2024)

4b. Dashboard for the monitoring of food supply and and food security

Objective and current situation

- **Objective:** early warning systems are of relevance to strengthen preparedness and inform response
- **Information available now:**
- Early warning systems monitoring drivers of production related to climate and weather (e.g. MARS)
- Market observatories for agricultural and fisheries markets providing information on non-climate related factors, including short-and medium-term projections.
- **-> Specific dashboards for monitoring food supply and food security complementing those already existing are considered – by Q4/2022**

Possible components of the dashboard (1)

- **Monthly availability:** (stocks) + EU production + imports – exports
 - TO ILLUSTRATE POTENTIAL SHORTAGES/SURPLUSES, ALSO HAVING PRICE IMPLICATIONS
- Monthly availability translated into **food and feed needs**
 - TO ILLUSTRATE NEED: AVAILABILITY RATIO

Possible components of the dashboard (2)

- **EU self-sufficiency** in selected agricultural and food products
- **Dependency of the EU and MS** (total and diversity of sources):
 - For agricultural products
 - For inputs
- **Food affordability** (food inflation, poverty rate)
- **Evolution of food consumption basket** (EU, MS) – focus on at home consumption and foodservice
- Possibly develop a **composite indicator** (using scoring system)

4c. EFSCM - Subgroups

EFSCM Action 9 - subgroups

→ 2 subgroups to deliver on:

9	Develop recommendations:	Group of experts (COM, MS, stakeholders)	
	- on ways to reinforce the diversity of sources of supply between shorter and longer food supply chains;		Q2/2023
	- on guidelines for crisis communication on food supply and food security;		Q2/2023

Annex to Communication (actions): <https://europa.eu/y6grYj>

Scope of 2 subgroups

- Objective:
 - Prepare draft recommendations for full EFSCM group
- Members:
 - A reasonable and operational number of volunteers – MSs, non-EU countries and stakeholders
- Organisation:
 - Each subgroup present in CircaBC (doc exchange); informal subgroup (video) meetings as needed.
 - (if considered needed by sub-group) wider consultation (e.g. questionnaire to EFSCM stakeholders and beyond).
- Indicative Timeline:
 - Membership defined: by end April 2022
 - 1st deliverable - concept paper, per subgroup: by July 2022
 - 2nd deliverable – first draft recommendations and 1st background paper/analysis: by end October 2022
 - 3rd deliverable – subgroup final draft recommendations: by December 2022
 - Discussion in full EFSC: Q1 2023
 - EFSCM final recommendations on 2 actions: adoption Q2 2023
- Coordination: Commission (AGRI)

Subgroup 1 – diversity of supply perspective

- Definitions (e.g. 'local' vs 'short') & scope (inputs diversity, logistical bottlenecks)
- Policy context / baseline (F2F)
- Options for diversification (long vs short, import sources, redundancy/modularity etc.).
- Benefits and costs of diversification strategies
- Wide range of supply chain arrangements – typology?
- Stats, evidence-base
- Practical examples / illustrations (e.g. COVID-19)
- Conclusions – what works, what not
- Recommendations – what to do, how to do

Analytical starting point – COM CPlan SWD: <https://europa.eu/!N93mHb>

Subgroup 2 – Crisis communication: guidelines

- Communicating with the public when a crisis occurs
- Operating principles: transparent, frequent, accurate, coordinated, consistent, proportionate, clear, ...
 - Aim: provide reliable information, assuage unnecessary fears, avoid counter-productive behaviour
 - Communication strategy, incl.
 - Communicating when usual communication channels are disrupted
 - Addressing misinformation
 - Coordinating private-public // EU-international dimensions // EU-MSs-regions

Thank you



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