

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission to Propose Binding Food Waste Reduction Targets

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Policy and Program Announcements, Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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Report Highlights:

On October 1, 2021, the European Commission published a roadmap outlining its intention to propose legally binding food waste reduction targets in the European Union, as part of its Farm to Fork Strategy. Stakeholders can comment on the roadmap until October 29, 2021.

General Information:

On October 1, 2021, the European Commission published [a roadmap](#) outlining its intention to propose EU-level targets for food waste reduction as part of the revision of [Directive 2008/98/EC](#), also known as the EU Waste Framework Directive.

This initiative is part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which aims to make the EU food supply chain more sustainable. The Commission notes that currently up to 20 percent of all food produced in the European Union ends up as food waste, adding up to 88 million tons annually. Additionally, food waste contributes 8 to 10 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions.¹

The objective of the new legally binding targets that the Commission will propose is to ensure that EU Member States take ambitious actions to reduce food waste. To do so, the Commission will adopt a two-fold approach:

1. Consider policy options related to the scope of the targets as well as the way in which the targets will be measured, expressed and set (e.g., percentage of food waste reduction in kilograms per capita).
2. Consider different target options for the period 2020-2030 which range from a reduction of 15 percent to a reduction of 50 percent of food waste in the European Union.

Next Steps:

With this roadmap, the Commission announces that it will prepare an impact assessment in 2022-2023 on food waste reduction targets. A legislative proposal is expected in the second quarter of 2023.

Feedback Period:

On October 1, 2021, the European Commission launched a consultative feedback period on the roadmap. Feedback will be taken into account while the Commission is finalizing this initiative. U.S. stakeholders who would like to comment can do so via the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13223-Food-waste-reduction-targets_en

The deadline for input is 12:00 a.m. (Central European Summer Time or Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on October 29, 2021. Please note that all comments made within the consultative framework may become public information.

¹ More information is available in the FAO report on [Food Wastage Footprint and Climate Change](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments.