



Mrs Ursula Von Der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Mr Maroš Šefčovič
Executive Vice-President
in charge of the European Green Deal

Brussel, September 21st 2023

In May 2020, the European Commission released its “Farm to Fork” Strategy. The ambitious goal of this strategy was and remains to make European food systems fair, healthy and environmental-friendly. In this strategy, the Commission announced the release of the legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), which was later planned for the third quarter of 2023. This legislative initiative is supposed to create a consistent overarching framework underpinning all the elements of the Farm to Fork Strategy. However, you have not quoted it in your State of Union address and it is not present in the Letter of Intent either.

It is crucial not to let down on this flagship regulation. Food and agriculture have been major topics in the debate on the implementation of the Green Deal. The necessity to support the sustainable transition of our agricultural and food sectors unites us beyond our political differences. The negotiations around the SFS are precisely the opportunity to democratically debate and find common grounds on what defines a sustainable food system. This is what European citizens expect from us. As an example, sustainable food systems are amongst the key recommendations from the Conference on the Future of Europe.

This text is a crucial opportunity for European farmers. Having an overarching vision of the landing zone, will bring them the clarity they need to plan their activities in the long term. Furthermore, the definition of sustainable food systems, in addition to the ecological considerations, should tackle the question of fair rural livelihoods. This would contribute to reinforce solidarity between rural areas and urban ones, and thereby, unite Europeans behind the Green Deal objectives.

Amid of the food inflation crisis that severely hits our fellow citizens, this proposal is even more necessary. Food accessibility is a crucial component of the food system sustainability. This proposal should allow the European Union to reinforce its action on the matter.

For all the above-mentioned reasons, we, the signatories, Members of the European Parliament, call on the European Commission to publish as scheduled its proposal of legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems. To quote your words: “Let’s deliver today and prepare for tomorrow”.

Sincerely,

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