

2018 EU FOOD AND FARMING FORUM - EVENT SUMMARY

On **29-30 May 2018**, IPES-Food will convene a major deliberative event, the **EU Food and Farming Forum (EU3F)**, taking place at the Bluepoint Meiser conference center in Brussels. The goal of EU Food and Farming Forum (EU3F) is to co-construct a set of policy proposals addressed to the EU for a comprehensive ‘Common Food Policy’ (understood to mean a ‘Food Systems Policy’ or a ‘Sustainable Food and Farming Policy’). Taking place symbolically one year before the 2019 EU elections, the Forum will yield concrete proposals to be taken up by political parties, campaign groups and ultimately by the EU institutions.

The Forum will provide a platform to collectively identify and agree on priorities for sustainable food systems reforms, bringing greater coherence between policy areas (agriculture, trade, environment, health, internal and external policies, etc.) and policy levels (EU, national, local). The strength of the message will depend on its content (the quality of the proposals), but also on the breadth of the constituencies behind it (how widely it is endorsed), and on the participatory process itself (the quality of the deliberation). The event will also serve as a rallying point to build trust among partners and strengthen advocacy across constituencies and different scales of action.

The Forum will be attended by around 200-250 participants already involved in food system reform at EU or national levels. A range of partners from various constituencies will not only participate at the forum, but will also play an active role in preparatory work leading into the forum. The goal of the forum is to co-construct a ‘**Sustainable Food Scoreboard**’ in participatory manner through a collective intelligence exercise. This scoreboard would allow food systems challenges to be addressed through a multi-year approach that promotes transitional thinking and the alignment of different policies at different levels of governance. It would allow a transition to sustainable food systems in Europe to be established as the ultimate objective, and broken down into the following:

- A set of **inter-dependent objectives** (or ‘Scoreboard Themes’) for building sustainable food systems in Europe;
- **Sub-objectives/targets** and **priority actions** to meet those objectives, with **responsibility for actions** allocated to different actors/ levels of governance;
- A precise **timeline** for meeting the actions/objectives, and indicators to measure progress, including both **policy indicators** (monitoring the actions adopted) and **outcome indicators** (monitoring the results achieved).

Through the preparatory work and the Forum, efforts will be undertaken to map out as precise a vision as possible, ideally referring to specific pieces of legislation/regulation. However, this will depend on the degree of consensus that is reached in the preparatory work and through the forum. At a minimum, the scoreboard will aim to capture consensus on the key principles for food systems reform in Europe and the types of actions that might be needed in line with the following the six major themes:

1. Delivering healthy/sustainable diets for all
2. Rebuilding agro-ecosystems, increasing resource efficiency and circularity, and addressing climate change
3. Harnessing the potential of urban food policies, city-region planning and alternative food systems
4. Designing trade & development policies that support sustainable food systems in EU and around the world
5. Building sustainable farm livelihoods and functional supply chains
6. Ensuring accountable, participatory governance & monitoring of progress

It is hoped that the Sustainable Food Scoreboard emerging from the forum will become a key reference point for various actors in their subsequent efforts to advocate and implement food systems reform in Europe.

Below is an example of what could ultimately be included under the theme of ‘delivering healthy and sustainable diets’ should it be possible to reach a high level of consensus:

THEME: Delivering healthy and sustainable diets for all					
OBJECTIVE	SUB-OBJECTIVES / TARGETS	PRIORITY ACTIONS/ ACTORS	TIMELINE	POLICY PROGRESS INDICATORS	OUTCOME INDICATORS
1) Eliminating child obesity in Europe	a) Eliminating junk food marketing to children	i) European Commission (lead: DG SANTE) proposes a revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (2010/13/EU) in order to include a provision on the prohibition of the advertising of junk food to children	2022 (Mid-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions and/or new EU directives passed • National legislation passed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours of exposure per week • Marketing expenditure by food companies • Child obesity rates
		ii) Legislation in place in all member states to ban food advertising on specific products below specific age	2025 (long-term)		
		iii) Local authorities share best practices on initiatives to curb access to junk food marketing & junk foods in schools, through EU-level platform set up by DG X	Immediate		
	b) Canteens with fresh food prep capacity in every school	