



# EU initiatives to fight food waste

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Health and  
Food Safety



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# Fighting Food Waste: key challenges for the European Union

Ensure that:

- Prevention and reduction of food waste do not jeopardise human or animal health (**food and feed safety**)
- **all actors** are involved, from farm to fork
- **EU action** complements/adds value to Member State initiatives
- **learning and best practice** is shared effectively, including international experience



# Circular Economy Package: work in progress

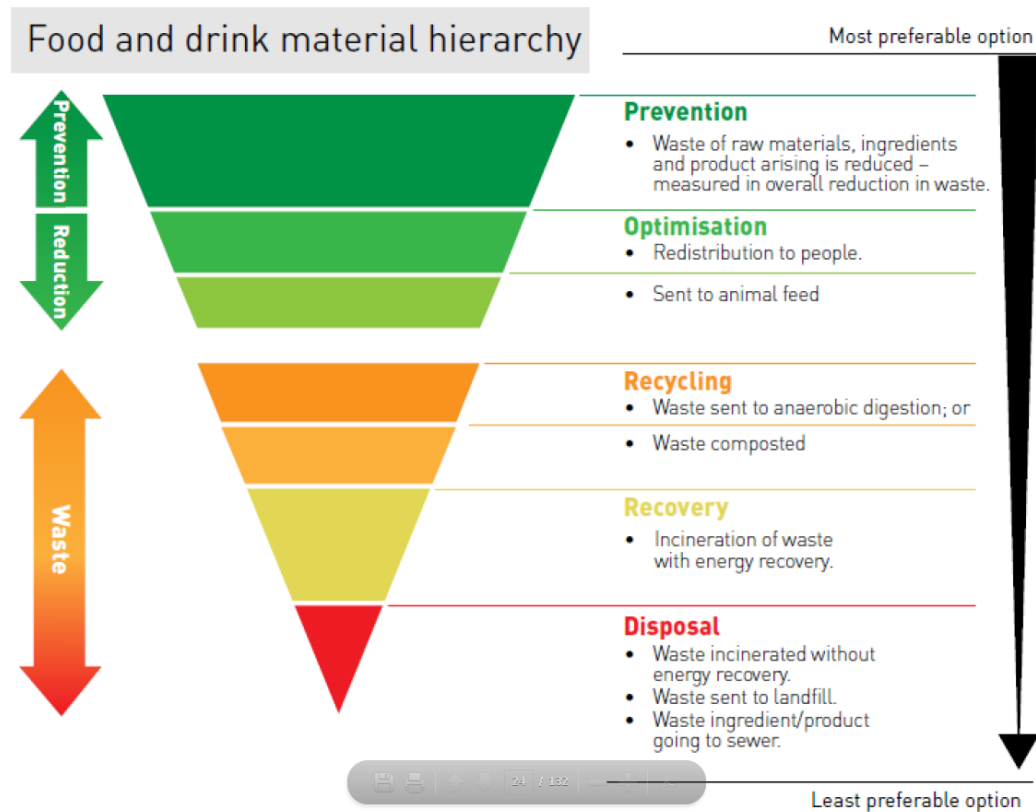
- New Commission to propose new, **more ambitious package** to promote Circular Economy before end 2015.
- **Public consultation** on Circular Economy Roadmap: 28 May – 20 August
- **Scope of package** currently being analysed: further action for strengthening resource efficiency and preventing food waste



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# Food and drink material hierarchy

Figure 2 An example food and drink material hierarchy, used to scope waste prevention.





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# Fight Food Waste: no impact on safety of the food and feed chain



- Facilitate **food donations**
- **Optimise** use of former foodstuffs, animal and other by-products in feed
- Promote better understanding and use of **date marking**
- **Measure** and monitor progress in reducing food waste
- Raise **awareness** and engagement  
[http://ec.europa.eu/stop food waste](http://ec.europa.eu/stop_food_waste)

## Facilitate food donations

- **Simplify** – without compromising food safety – food hygiene rules which apply when retailers provide food to food banks
- Consider opportunity for **EU-wide food donation guidelines** for food donors and food banks eg:
  - Roles & responsibilities (food safety, hygiene, traceability...)
  - VAT regime and food donations.
- ⇒ **Stakeholders** confirm value of guidelines/initial scoping of content focussed on issues to be addressed at EU level
- ⇒ Build on work of **Member States**
- ⇒ **Resource section** on Commission website – food donation guidelines in Member States, recent studies & reports



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# Optimise safe resource use in food and feed chain

- Facilitate safe use of **former foodstuffs as a resource** for production of animal feed
  - clarify status of former foodstuffs of plant origin;
  - clarify conditions for safe use of foods past the "use by" date in animal feed

## Date marking: promote better understanding and use

- Consider opportunities to **simplify date labelling** rules:
  - Possible extension of list of products exempt from date marking ("best before" date)?
  - Possible modification of terminology ("best before")
- **Explore with industry** possible opportunities for food waste prevention:
  - Consistency of practices regarding date marking?
  - Potential to reduce food waste by maximising shelf-life?
- **Assess/address information needs** (consumers and other actors)





# Food Waste: definitions & measurement

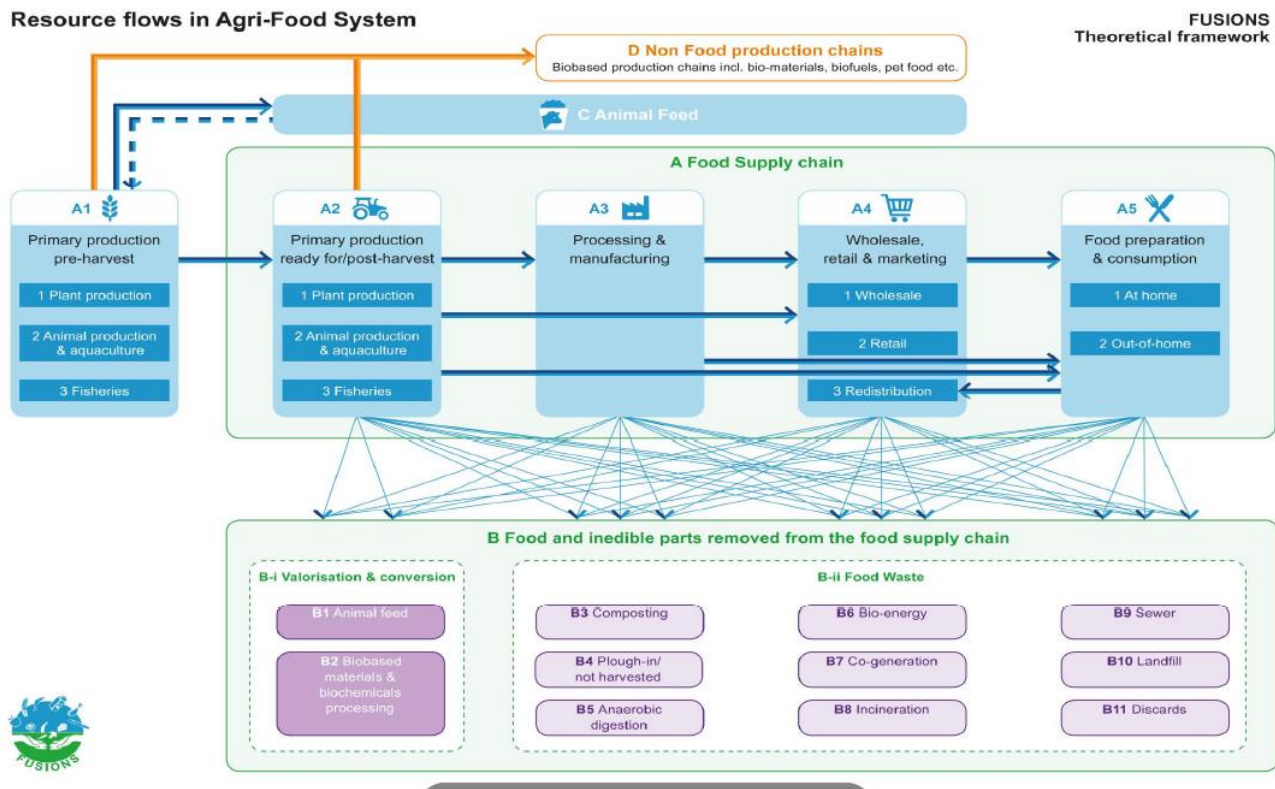
EU-funded **FUSIONS research project** ([www.eu-fusions.org](http://www.eu-fusions.org))

is working in close co-operation with stakeholders of the food supply chain and Member State experts to:

- **Clarify what is meant by "food waste"** at each step of the food supply chain to support food waste prevention (*FUSIONS food waste definitions framework, July 2014*)
- **Propose common framework** for measuring/quantifying food waste, data collection, analysis and reporting
- Clarify **resource flows** in the food system and support effective implementation of **food waste/"food use" hierarchy**

# FUSIONS framework

## FUSIONS framework for defining food waste





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## Awareness raising, information and communications



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What can I do in  
my daily life to limit  
**food waste?**

- Further initiatives planned on **date marking** to clarify date marking ("use by" vs "best before")
- **EXPO 2015:**  
"Fight Food Waste, Feed the Planet"– 15 October
  - ⇒ Pursue dialogue with all actors and stakeholders





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# EU support: social innovation for food waste prevention

- **EU initiatives:**
- FUSIONS WP on social innovation; FORWARD (*published*)
- Future Internet Public Private Partnership (FI PPP)



*"An app that helps you  
buy good food  
at the best price"*



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# Commission **Food Waste** website: sharing good practices

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/index_en.htm)

<b>FOOD WASTE</b>	<h2>Good practices in food waste prevention and reduction</h2> <p>A wide range of initiatives to prevent and reduce food waste are underway at national, regional and local level in the EU. This webpage aims to facilitate the exchange of good practices by compiling as many of these initiatives together in one place as possible. Have a look and be inspired!</p> <h3>Good practices in food waste prevention and reduction</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Research and innovation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Awareness, information and education</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Policy, awards, self-imposed certification</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Food redistribution</a></li></ul> <p>Should you wish to <b>contribute to this compilation</b> of good practice initiatives in food waste prevention and reduction, please contact the Commission at:</p> <p><a href="mailto:SANTE-FOOD-WASTE@ec.europa.eu">SANTE-FOOD-WASTE@ec.europa.eu</a></p>
<b>Stop food waste</b>	
<b>EU actions</b>	
<b>Good practices</b>	
Research and innovation	
Awareness, information and education	
Policy, awards, certification	
Food redistribution	
<b>Communications materials</b>	
<b>Resources library</b>	



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## Tackling food waste



Commitment and co-ordinated action is required,  
including internationally (FAO, CFS, UNEP, G20...)



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# Thank you