

## EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste launched

### ECSLA represents the temperature controlled storage and logistics sector in the Platform

The Platform, which came together for its inaugural meeting on 29 November 2016, will be the **key forum at EU level** to help all players identify and implement food waste prevention solutions and to achieve the related Sustainable Development Goals.



The Platform will promote cooperation across sectors and sharing of best practice and results.

The Platform further aims to support all actors in rethinking a food value chain where **food waste is minimised** and **value gained from food produced is maximised**.

For the composition of the Platform, the Commission wanted to ensure not only a **high level of expertise** but also a balanced representation of know-how and areas of interest in the food value chain, taking into account the Platform's mandate and future areas of work.

After conducting a selection of applications received, the Commission granted membership to a total of **70 members** to be part of the Platform:

- 33 public entities - EU Member States, EFTA countries, EU bodies (Committee of the Region, European Economic and Social Committee), international organisations (OECD, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP)) and
- 37 representatives from the private sector, selected following a public call for applications. **ECSLA was selected to represent the temperature controlled storage and logistics sector** - as it represents companies that form a crucial link in the cold chain and the temperature controlled supply chain.

The members are appointed for the term of the current Commission until 31 November 2019 and will meet on a regular basis in its full compositions and in various sub-groups dedicated to specific topics.

### Food Waste and Food Losses - a top priority for the European Commission

This was underlined by the fact that Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety not only opened the meeting with a very inspiring speech but also actively participated in the discussion with Platform members. During his emotional speech he introduced the 3Cs: **Creativity, Commitment and Cooperation** as essential to be successful in the fight against food waste. During the discussion with Platform members, a fourth C was added: **Capacity** to deliver.



*Commissioner Andriukaitis making a very visual point of the amount of food wasted every day in the EU*

### What is the Commission proposing?

The Commission's Circular Economy Package has **singled out food waste prevention as a priority area** for action and calls on Member States to reduce food waste generation in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The new waste legislation proposal, based on the Circular Economy, requires Member States to **reduce food waste at each stage of the food supply chain**, monitor food waste levels and report back in order to facilitate exchange between actors on progress made.

The Commission's action plan to prevent food waste in the EU includes:

- developing **common EU methodology to measure food waste** and defining relevant indicators
- taking measures to clarify EU legislation relating to waste, food and feed, and **facilitate the valorisation of former foodstuffs and by-products as animal feed without compromising food and feed safety**;
- examining ways to **improve the use of date marking** by actors of the food chain and its understanding by consumers, in particular the "best before" label
- developing, in co-operation with Member States and stakeholders, **EU food donation guidelines** to help food donors, food banks and other charity organisations comply with relevant EU legislation (food safety, traceability, food hygiene, labelling etc.), with adoption forecast for end 2017.

### What is food waste?

Food waste is waste which is generated in the production, distribution and consumption of food. In order to fight food waste, the first priority is to understand where food is lost, how much and why. This is why one of the first priorities of the Commission is to elaborate a methodology to measure food waste.

This methodology will illustrate, in the context of the EU's definitions of "food" and "waste", what material is regarded as food waste and what is not, **at each stage of the food supply chain**. Consistent measurement of food waste levels in the EU and reporting will allow Member States and actors in the food value chain to compare and monitor food waste levels which will allow to assess the effectiveness of food waste prevention initiatives.

### Scope of Food Waste and Food Loss

Food waste is a significant concern in Europe: it is estimated that **around 88 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the EU – around 20% of all food produced** – with related costs valued at 143 billion Euros.

Food is lost or wasted **along the whole food supply chain**: on the farm, in processing and manufacture, in shops, in restaurants and canteens, and at home. The Food and Agriculture Organisation, estimates that approximately **one-third of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted**, requiring cropland area the size of China and generating about 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.