## Policies, strategies and debates – 7 documents

1) **EFSA Strategy 2027 – Science, Safe food, Sustainability**

ABSTRACT

The document is published by EFSA. It sets out how EFSA intends to respond to this changing environment, describing the added value it proposes to its customers, partners, stakeholders, and the public at large. EFSA’s Strategy 2027 is structured in three main parts. The first part describes EFSA’s strategic foundation – the elements that give purpose and meaning to its day-to-day activities, including its key values. These represent and reflect the role the organisation will have in the years to come. The second part details the outcome of an analysis that EFSA carried out of its internal and external environment. The aim of the analysis was to identify the critical challenges and opportunities that it will face in the future and to explore their relevance to the organisation in the medium and long term. The third part of the document sets out the strategic objectives, expected outcomes and results that will guide EFSA through the next six years. This is accompanied by a high-level implementation plan, detailing what activities EFSA will carry out to achieve the objectives. (Source: document *“Introduction”*).

**2) Farm to Fork Strategy, for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system**

ABSTRACT

The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the Green Deal. It addresses comprehensively the challenges of sustainable food systems and recognises the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. The strategy is also central to the Commission’s agenda to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All citizens and operators across value chains, in the EU and elsewhere, should benefit from a just transition, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn. A shift to a sustainable food system can bring environmental, health and social benefits, offer economic gains and ensure that the recovery from the crisis puts us onto a sustainable path1. Ensuring a sustainable livelihood for primary producers, who still lag behind in terms of income2, is essential for the success of the recovery and the transition. (Source: document introduction *“Needs for action”*).

3) **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

ABSTRACT

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It presents the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which are integrated and indivisible. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad and universal policy agenda. There are setting out on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world. Every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. The Agenda will be implemented for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, the states reaffirm their commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law (Sources: *“Preamble”* of the document).

**4) Sustainable Food Systems Partnership for People, Planet and Climate. Strategic Research And Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**

ABSTRACT

To reach sustainable food systems (SFS), the European Commission has launched through Horizon Europe the R&I initiative to develop the Partnership Sustainable Food Systems (P-SFS) for people, planet and climate. It is one of the 49 partnerships launched under Horizon Europe to drive green and digital transitions. Ten of them are targeting food systems (FS), namely seven co-funded Partnerships (Sustainable Blue Economy, Agroecology, Animal Health and Welfare, Agriculture of Data, Biodiversa+, Water4All, and P-SFS) and one institutionalized Partnership (Circular Bio-Based Europe). While the other co-funded Partnerships are in particular addressing pre-harvest themes, the **P-SFS has its focus on post-farming and -fishing**. This contradiction to systems approaches is addressed through intensive cooperation with the other partnerships and this includes jointly implementing system approaches, working inter- and trans-disciplinary and engaging multi-actors (Source: document *“Executive Summary”*).

**5) Thinking about the future of food safety. A foresight report**

ABSTRACT

Throughout the world, in simple terms, food is kept safe by the collective efforts of all the relevant actors in the food supply chain: national authorities by establishing relevant guidelines and standards, food producers by adopting good practices, business operators by complying with regulations, and the consumers by being aware of safe food handling practices. This shared responsibility forms the basis of the slogan adopted for the annual World Food Safety Day, “Food safety is everyone’s business” (FAO and WHO, 2021). As agrifood systems evolve and respond to various challenges – climate change, globalization, resource depletion, growing inequalities, geopolitical instabilities, e-commerce, amongst many others – food safety needs to keep pace with these changes. Policies, guidelines, standards and regulations related to food safety need to be kept up to date or further developed to reflect the changing needs within the current system. Managing critical food safety deficiencies will foster the efficiency and resilience of agrifood systems and ultimately help achieve food security while ensuring global public health. (Source: document *“Introduction”*).

**6) ETP *Food for Life* SRIA. FOOD FOR TOMORROW’S CONSUMER. Step-changing the innovation power and impact of the European food and drink industry to the benefit of a sustainable society**

ABSTRACT

The European food and drink sector is unique in its very high regional and continent-wide cultural diversity, which is not only a point of pride for many citizens, but also provides a framework ideally suited to foster creativity and innovations. The great variety of regional culinary traditions that have developed across Europe over the centuries ensure that the food and drink sector is deeply embedded in society. The sector profits from a high quality science ecosystem in the food, nutritional and related disciplines formed by top level industry players, academic and research institutions, and players have a proven capacity to carry out ground-breaking research and development activities. Through this industrial and science ecosystem, the sector is supplied with a well-educated workforce that is highly motivated. Europe is also very much a leader in the development and implementation of effective regulations to ensure that its food supply is of the highest safety and quality. In this respect, the continent also benefits from its excellent scientific and educational base. The ability to combine high standards with diverse and interesting food and drink products makes the European food sector competitive and its products very desirable around the world. With a clear focus on health and safety, the European food system is capable of formulating new food solutions and ensuring that consumers have access to a balanced diet. Finally, through its diversity, the European food system is able to react and rise to new challenges, which is unlike the case in other, more “food-uniform” regions of the world. (Source: document *“Strategic considerations”*)

 **7) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on Circular Economy**

ABSTRACT

Switching to a circular economy means changing the entire system we live and operate in – and this will not be achieved through single-point interventions. Systemic change means shifting both the function and structure of a system and sustaining change overtime through programmatic intervention. The global COVID-19 crisis has exposed fundamental flaws in current economic and resource systems. Circular economy can boost the EU’s resilience against similar future crises by securing material supply, decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth and reducing the dependency on material consumption as the means to socioeconomic prosperity.

The SRIA was developed based on eight priority themes (biomass and biotechnologies, chemicals, construction and demolition, food, plastic, raw materials, waste and water). The themes build on four societal areas that face sustainability challenges (urban areas, industrial systems, value chains and territory and sea) to identify priority areas for CE research and innovation (aka. Innovation fields) that tackle EU region-wide issues and facilitate the circular economy transition. Based on the innovation fields, four joint programmes were developed in this SRIA: 1) Circular Cities, 2) Circular Industries, 3) Closing the Loop and 4) Resource Efficiency on Territory & Sea (Source: document *“Executive Summary”*).

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