



## Parliamentary Briefing of the European Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition

### Achieving a sustainable Food Systems Transformation - Reflections for the UN Food Systems Summit

**Date:** 21 May 11:00 –13:00

**Duration:** 2h00

**Platform:** Zoom

**Organisers:** jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), hosted by MEP Marlene Mortler (EPP), MEP Paolo de Castro (S&D), MEP Isabel Carvalhais (S&D), MEP Soraya Rodríguez Ramos (Renew), MEP Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA), MEP Petros Kokkalis (The Left)

#### Background

**Transforming agri-food systems and ending poverty are cornerstones to deliver the 2030 Agenda.** Sustainable agri-food systems are key to feeding a growing world with healthy diets; mitigating and adapting to climate change and sustainably managing global natural resources while providing the livelihoods of millions.

A range of pressures including rapid population growth, urbanization, growing wealth and consequent changes in consumption patterns, are challenging our food systems' ability to provide nutritious food, and to contribute to enhanced livelihood opportunities in an environmentally sustainable way.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the weaknesses and vulnerabilities in food systems, and revealed opportunities for increasing their sustainability. Responding to these challenges requires a systems-based approach that addresses the range and complexities in a holistic and sustainable manner.

Against this background and in the aim of a sustainable and holistic transformation, current policy debates and upcoming policy fora both at the European and international level present substantial opportunities to lay the cornerstone for a sustainable global food system transformation that is based on resilience and multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance.

#### *The UN Food Systems Summit*

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will **launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.**

The Summit seeks to awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. It aims to design a **pathway to sustainable and equitable food systems by 2030.** It is a summit for everyone everywhere – a **people's summit**; as well as a **solutions summit** that will require everyone to take action to transform the world's food systems.



Guided by **five Action Tracks**, the Summit will bring together key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders.

The Action Tracks are the following:

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns;
3. Boost nature-positive production;
4. Advance equitable livelihoods;
5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

Several structures are supporting the preparations and process of the Summit. This includes an Advisory Committee providing strategic guidance and feedback on the Summit's development and implementation; as well as the **Scientific Group** which is an independent group of leading researchers and scientists from around the world. Its members are responsible for ensuring the robustness, breadth and independence of the science that underpins the Summit and its outcomes<sup>1</sup>.

Constituted in April 2016, the European Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition brings together 29 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from different nationalities, political groups and parliamentary committees. The Alliance provides a platform for policy dialogue and awareness raising on the right to adequate food for all, on the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and on making agriculture more sustainable and resilient.

### Meeting objectives

- Provide an information from the Scientific Group and through other experts on necessary actions to achieve a food systems transformation;
- Offer a neutral platform of exchange on the transformation of food systems and how it can be achieved;
- Identify synergies and opportunities within the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy to make food systems sustainable, healthy and inclusive;
- Spark a Parliamentary dialogue on food systems transformation ahead of the Pre-Summit to the UN Food Systems Summit.

### Participants

- Members of the European Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition and other interested MEPs;
- Policy advisors;
- Other stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sc-fss2021.org/> and <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/leadership>.



## Draft Agenda

Moderator: Thin Lei Win

Public segment		
<b>Welcoming remarks</b>		
2 min	Rodrigo de Lapuerta, Director a.i. FAO Liaison Office with the EU and Belgium	
3 min	MEP Paolo de Castro (S&D)	
3 min	MEP Soraya Rodríguez Ramos (Renew)	
<b>Setting the scene</b>		
<b>High-level opening</b>		
5 min	David Sassoli, European Parliament President (video-message)	<i>Role of the European Parliament ahead of the Food Systems Summit</i>
5 min	QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General	<i>Introduction of the challenges faced by food systems, the need for a UNFSS and FAO's role</i>
<b>Keynote</b>		
3 min	MEP Marlene Mortler (EPP)	<i>Introduction of Prof. Joachim von Braun</i>
10 min	Prof. Joachim von Braun, Chair of the UNFSS Scientific Group	<i>Introduction of the work of the Scientific Committee, the 5 Action Tracks and some of the solutions, recommendations the Scientific Group has already put forward</i>
<b>Respondents</b>		
4 min	Koen Doens, Director General, DG INTPA (tbc.)	<i>The External Dimension of the EU Green Deal and linkages to global food systems</i>
4 min	Claire Bury, Deputy Director General, DG SANTE	<i>The EU Green Deal and the food systems approach in the Farm2Fork Strategy</i>
<b>Comments by Members of the European Parliament</b>		
3 min	MEP Petros Kokkalis (The Left)	<i>Comments and reactions by the MEPs to the previous interventions, to kick-start the discussion</i>
<b>Discussion with the audience</b>		
30 min	Q&A session with the participants	
<b>Closing remarks</b>		
3 min	MEP Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA)	
3 min	MEP Isabel Carvalhais (S&D)	
<i>End of the public segment</i>		
Closed segment		
30 min	Exchange between Members of the European Parliament, Joachim von Braun and the other speakers	