

Commission Work Programme for 2023

The ongoing food crisis caused by sharply increasing prices, severe droughts and aggravated by the Russian invasion on Ukraine jeopardises food security around the world and represents another significant challenge. To address this, and to facilitate Ukraine's access to the single market and global supply chains through alternative routes, the Commission continues to work closely with its international partners, the Member States, Ukrainian authorities and business operators to ensure access to fertilisers, food production and open trade to prevent food supply distortions. Our 'Solidarity Lanes' allow Ukraine to export its grain and other products and import the goods it needs, from humanitarian aid to fertilisers. EC has also mobilised EUR 600 million from the European Development Fund to increase support to food security to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

The effects of climate change are increasingly severe, as evidenced by this year's extreme heatwaves, forest fires and unprecedented droughts. Moreover, in the face of increasing global threats and the new geopolitical reality, accelerating the green transformation will enhance our long-term food security by building a sustainable and resilient food system. Most of the proposals key to delivering the European Green Deal have already been tabled by the Commission and will continue to provide full support to the co-legislators to ensure agreement can be reached before the end of this parliamentary term. For this year, swift agreement on the Fit for 55 package is key. To complement these measures, earlier in 2022 we adopted a pioneering proposal to halve pesticide use by 2030, and to restore Europe's damaged ecosystems by 2050.

In 2023, EC will take action to reduce waste and the environmental impact of waste, with a focus on food and textile waste, a topic identified during the Conference on the Future of Europe. Some 20% of all food produced in the EU is wasted, depleting natural resources, undermining ecosystems and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. To tackle this, we will take measures including food waste reduction targets. We will set up a comprehensive framework for sustainable food systems in the EU, to make sustainability central to all food-related policies. EC will overhaul the EU's animal welfare laws to broaden their scope and ensure a higher level of animal welfare. This responds to the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the European Citizens' Initiative, 'End the Cage Age'. EC will bring forward legislation for new genomic techniques such as targeted mutagenesis or cisgenesis. It will maintain a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable food system through innovative plant products. The initiative responds to a proposal by the Conference on the Future of Europe.

New initiatives

Policy objective	Initiatives
<i>Waste reduction</i>	Revision of food waste and textiles aspects of the EU waste framework Directive (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q2 2023)
<i>New genomic techniques</i>	Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q2 2023 , responds to Article 241 TFEU Council decision (EU) 2019/1904 'requesting the Commission to submit a study regarding the status of novel genomic techniques under Union law, and a proposal, if appropriate in view of the outcomes of the study')
<i>Animal welfare</i>	Animal welfare – revision of EU legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2023)
<i>Sustainable food systems</i>	Legislative framework for sustainable food systems (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2023)
<i>Healthy soils</i>	Initiative on protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q2 2023)

Priority pending proposals

Full title	References
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115	COM(2022)305 final 2022/0196 (COD) 22.06.2022
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on nature restoration	COM(2022)304 final 2022/0195 (COD) 22.06.2022
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on European Union geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, and quality schemes for agricultural products, amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2017/1001 and (EU) 2019/787 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012	COM(2022)134 final 2022/0089 (COD) 31.3.2022
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control	COM(2018)368 final 2018/0193 (COD) 30.05.2018