

THE BOLOGNA CHARTER AGAINST FOOD WASTE

Having regard to

- The 2012 Rio+20 Declaration on “The future we want”;
- COM(2011) 021 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “*A resource-efficient Europe-Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy*”;
- COM(2011) 571 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe”;
- European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2012 on *how to avoid food wastage: strategies for a more efficient food chain in the EU* (2011/2175(INI));
- Decision N° 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 ‘*Living well, within the limits of our planet*’
- COM(2014) 397 - “*Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment*”
- COM(2014) 398 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “*Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe*”
- Report presented by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainability Food System and adopted by the 41th Committee on World Food Security (CFS);

Whereas

- Approximately one-third of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted at global level which amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year;
- At the same time more than 800 millions of people around the world are still chronically undernourished and roughly 1 billion people do not have adequate access to drinking water;
- Food that is produced, but never consumed, still causes environmental impacts to the atmosphere, water, land and biodiversity. These environmental costs must be paid by society and future generations. Furthermore, by contributing to environmental degradation and increasing the scarcity of natural resources, food wastage is associated with wider social costs that affect people’s well-being and livelihoods;
- According to FAO the food we waste every year on a global scale requires roughly 250.000 billion liters of water, 1.4 billion hectares of land and is responsible for 3.3 billion tones of carbon dioxide emitted in vain into the atmosphere;
- The economic costs of this food wastage are substantial and amount to about USD 1 trillion each year. However, the hidden costs of food wastage extend much further;
- The demand for food is expected to increase by over 60 percent over the next 40 years, as the global population reaches over 9 billion and as increased income drives dietary pattern changes towards more livestock products. The agriculture sectors (including forestry and fisheries) are also required to produce more non-food products, especially for energy (liquid biofuels, wood) and feed.
- At the same time, the resource base of the agriculture sector is threatened by environment degradation, climate change, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and, particularly in certain areas, urbanization and industrial use.

Acknowledged that

- International competition for access to water, energy, land and food will lead more and more to intergeneration tensions and/or conflicts.

- For future population scenarios, food wastage mitigation could play a crucial role both in reducing agriculture's environmental footprint and assuring food availability while respecting critical planetary boundaries.
- Reducing food losses and waste is a global challenge; a global coordination is needed to join efforts and actively tackle the problem at international level with appropriate measures;

We, the governments, pledge ourselves to

1. Include the problem of food losses and waste (FLW) within the international environmental agenda;
2. Adopt a common, legal and clear definition of FLW and a common metrics to quantify it, according to the outcomes of the main international projects on the issue;
3. Convene an inclusive process to identify hotspots, causes of losses and waste at different levels, potential solutions and levels of intervention. This requires identifying the actors who will directly implement solutions, individually or collectively, identify the costs they will bear, as well as potential benefits and beneficiaries. It also requires identifying constraints (including systemic constraints) and how they would be addressed (infrastructure, technologies, changes of organization in the food chain/system, capacity building, policies and institutions);
4. Implement an adequate framework including regulation, incentives and facilitation so that the private sector (e.g. wholesaler, retailer, catering and other food services) and consumers take robust measures to tackle unsustainable consumption patterns;
5. Set up, adopt and deliver National Programmes especially devoted to tackle the problem of FLW along the supply chain **while ensuring food safety and quality** in each Country, backed with appropriate resources. The National Programmes should be delivered in combination with communication campaigns aimed at raising citizens' awareness on the negative consequences of FLW;
6. Set measurable National FLW reduction targets along the food supply chain;
7. Promote the engagement of all stakeholders along the supply chain toward the achievement of the FLW reduction targets, while ensuring food safety and quality ;
8. Introduce or strengthen food & nutrition education programs in schools;
9. Foster social innovation initiatives in the field of food waste prevention, by removing barriers that might hinder their development.
10. Encourage the donation of discarded but still edible food to charities and people in need, through the simplification and the standardization of the regulatory framework (procedural, fiscal, sanitary), while ensuring food safety and quality .
11. Monitor and report the effectiveness of the undertaken actions on a regular basis.