

Overview: EU Farm to Fork and Green Deal Initiatives

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[European Green Deal](#)

[Farm to Fork Strategy](#)

[Vision for Agriculture and Food](#)

What is changing and why?

[European Green Deal \(2019\)](#)

This initiative aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. It focuses on resource efficiency, a clean circular economy, biodiversity restoration, and pollution reduction.

[Farm to Fork Strategy \(2020\)](#)

Central to the Green Deal, this strategy seeks to make food systems fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly. It addresses the environmental and climate footprint of the European Union (EU) food system, food security challenges, and a global transition towards competitive sustainability.

Key initiatives

- Sustainable food systems framework legislation: This legislation was intended to standardise sustainability for all food products in the EU, including imports and include new legal frameworks, sustainability definitions, labelling requirements, and sustainable public procurement criteria. The publication was foreseen for the third or fourth quarter of 2023, but this did not take place. No reference was made to this initiative in the Commission's EU Vision for Agriculture and Food 2025–2029 .
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD): Sets rules for the reporting requirements on sustainability for large companies operating in the EU. Effective from January 2023, with some companies applying new rules in 2024 (for reports to be published in 2025). In February 2025, the European Commission published a proposal to change certain parts of the Directive. The final reviewed rules are expected by the second half of 2025.

- Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D): Requires large companies to identify and mitigate their adverse impacts on human rights and the environment, and will mean non-EU suppliers may have to provide more information and data to EU buyers on these aspects of the supply chain. In February 2025, the European Commission published a proposal to change certain parts of the Directive. The final reviewed rules are expected by the second half of 2025.
- Revision of EU marketing standards on fruit and vegetables, honey/ fruit juices and jams, poultry, olive oil, the hop sector, and eggs: Standards have been updated for various products with the aim of promoting sustainability and reducing food waste. The new standards for poultry meat are yet to be adopted and published.
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR): Aims to ensure that certain products sold in the EU market “do not contribute to deforestation”. Effective from 30 December 2025 for large companies operating in the EU, and from 30 June 2026 for micro- and small companies, 12 months later than originally planned.
- Green Claims Directive: Seeks to standardise environmental claims to prevent companies exaggerating their attention to sustainability. The Parliament (March 2024) and Council of the EU (June 2024) have adopted their negotiating positions, and negotiations between them have started.
- Sustainability Labelling Framework: Announced as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the aim was to provide information on the sustainability of food products. This was to be included in the Sustainable Food Systems framework (see above).
- Origin indication labelling: This initial intention was to extend mandatory origin labelling to include more products. Initially scheduled for the end of 2023, this proposal has been postponed but is still ongoing. The Commission’s EU Vision for Agriculture and Food 2025–2029 announced the “extension of the country of origin labelling in line with sectoral specificities”.
- Nutrient profiles and nutrition labelling: Aims to empower consumers with better nutritional information. Initially scheduled for the end of 2023, this proposal has been postponed but is still ongoing.
- Animal welfare legislation revision: Aims to align EU rules with the latest scientific evidence, and to improve animal welfare standards. A proposal on the protection of animals during transport was published in December 2023, and will now be discussed in the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. The Commission will continue its preparatory work on other animal welfare proposals.
- Revision of feed additives Regulation: Focuses on promoting feed additives that are beneficial for animal welfare and the environment. Proposal is likely to be postponed.
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation: Now withdrawn by the European Commission, which will focus instead on improving the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides.

- Pesticides with biological active substances: Facilitates the approval of microorganisms as active substances for plant protection.
- Proposal on new genomic techniques: Will determine which crops produced using genomic techniques are to be treated as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which need assessment and authorisation, and which will not require assessment. Discussions on the Commission's proposal are ongoing.
- Regulation on plastic food contact materials (FCM): Sets new rules for plastic FCM to improve quality control, and aligns existing rules on plastic FCM with legislation on recycled plastic FCM. It introduces purity requirements for substances obtained from waste and natural materials, and adds quality control rules on good manufacturing practice.
- Packaging and packaging waste Regulation: Sets new rules with stricter sustainability requirements – minimum amounts of recycled plastic, reduced packaging and levels of contaminants, restrictions on single-use packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables – that will also apply to non-EU suppliers of packaged food to the EU market. Will apply from 12 August 2026 (rules apply from different dates); recyclability and recycled plastic targets will apply from 2030.
- Policy framework for alternative plastics: Outlines the EU's vision for alternative plastics to tackle plastic pollution.

Timeline

The timeline for each initiative is given above.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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