



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
Director

Brussels,
 SANTE/E1/DSK/mtd(2017)2711597

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: Stop Food Waste in Europe

Thank you for submitting to Commissioner Andriukaitis your petition on 'Stop food waste in Europe'. The Commissioner has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Let me assure you that the Commission is conscious about the magnitude of food waste in Europe and at global level. This is also the reason why the Commission is fully committed to lead EU efforts to fight food losses and waste at all level of the food supply chain and is already implementing initiatives which address many aspects in order to prevent food losses and waste.

The Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations 12.3 calls for a reduction of food waste by 50% by 2030 at retail and consumer levels and reduction of food losses all along the production and supply chains¹.

As part of the Circular Economy Action Plan², the Commission is taking initiatives to support efforts of all actors in reaching the Sustainable Development Goal food waste target by: elaborating a harmonised methodology to measure food waste; developing EU guidelines to facilitate food donation as well as the safe use of former foodstuffs as feed; and examining ways to improve the use of date marking³. In particular, the future EU guidelines on food donation will clarify and facilitate the implementation of relevant provisions for food donation in EU legislation.

The European Commission established the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to mobilise all actors for reaching the global food waste reduction target (http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/eu-platform_en). This Platform is a key element of the Circular Economy Action Plan and of the overall policy response to food waste prevention, bringing together key actors representing private and public interests (http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/eu-platform/platform-members_en). It accelerates progress of all actors through sharing of best practices and is expected to identify new initiatives and opportunities to address food waste prevention at EU level.

¹ United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3: halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030 and reduce food losses along the food production and supply chains including post-harvest losses

² COM(2015)614

³ A study to research date marking practices by industry and control authorities was launched in 2016 which, together with consumer research and other findings, will help inform future policy making (https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/fw_eu_actions_tech-specs_2016-e1-024_annex2.pdf)

In order to be effective, food waste prevention requires action at all levels - global, EU, national, regional and local - and engagement of all key players in the food value chain. Please be reassured that the Commission is fully committed to lead the necessary efforts in this respect at EU level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jülicher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sabine Jülicher