Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 13 July 2017
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Symposium on the Future of Food in the EU (Brussels, 27 June 2017) *- Information from the Maltese, Slovak and Netherlands delegations*

Delegations will find in Annex an information note received from the Maltese, Slovak and Netherlands delegations on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 17-18 July 2017.

ANNEX

AOB- note: Symposium on the 'Future of Food in the EU' of 27 June 2017

Information of the Trio-Presidency of Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands

On 27 June 2017 a symposium on "The Future of Food in the EU" took place in Brussels. The Symposium was organized by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the Trio-Presidency of Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands. The symposium was attended by 140 representatives of Member States, multiple representatives of the European Commission and various stakeholders being NGOs and the business community.

Central to the symposium's program was the presentation of the forward looking report on "Delivering on Food Safety and Nutrition in 2050 - Future challenges and policy preparedness"[1], prepared by the JRC in collaboration with DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE). The report identified 4 scenarios on how and by whom food is possibly produced in the future, the challenges that each of the scenarios will face us with and policy options to address these challenges. The JRC applied a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary foresight approach, and looked at food from the perspective of safety, nutrition, health, environment, sustainable and innovative production methods and security.

The aim of the symposium was to contribute to the European debate in a multi-sectorial way among member states, the European Commission and various stakeholders. It aimed at stimulating forward thinking and subsequently providing input to comprehensive and future-oriented policy development and implementation that reflects Europe's leading role in food safety and nutrition security.

[1] The report can be downloaded on https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/delivering-eu-food-safety-and-nutrition-2050-future-challenges-and-policy-preparedness

At the symposium, DG Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) detailed CAP-related aspects of food production and consumption, followed by 3 Member States (Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands), who presented their perspective on and/or experience with a comprehensive food policy at national level. These perspectives were followed by a panel debate between representatives of DG SANTE , the European Consumer Organization (BEUC), Food Drink Europe, and the European Environment Agency on their appreciation and position on the future of food in Europe, based on the scenarios in the JRC report. Without official conclusions being drawn from the debate, the general outcome of the panel debate was that there is a need to have an all-encompassing debate on comprehensive policy options regarding the different aspects of food in Europe. Please see the annex for a summary of the presentations and discussions of the symposium.

Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands value scientific research, in addition to societal demands, as an important basis for policy development and from that perspective thank DG SANTE for initiating the JRC report and congratulate JRC for the comprehensive and forward looking result and subsequent discussions with stakeholders.

Member States and the European Commission are invited to share their perspective on the need for a further in-depth reflection on a comprehensive, science-based European food policy.

Annex: summary report of the symposium

The Future of Food in the EU

Symposium co-organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (DG JRC) and the Trio Presidency of Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands

27 June 2017

Brussels, Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU

Summary report

Highlights

The rich discussions at the symposium converged on the following points:

- **There is a need for an all-encompassing debate on more comprehensive policy options on the different aspects of food in Europe.**
- **Foresight, and in particular scenario building, provides a valuable input to discussions about future policies.**
- **A holistic approach is needed, considering the different elements, perspectives of the food system and their interlinkages.**
- **The current debate on the future of the EU provides an opportunity to include considerations on the future of food in the EU.**

Context

A growing world population, scarcer natural resources, climate change and unhealthy eating habits are some of the major developments the European and global food systems will be faced with in the future. This translates into significant challenges in terms of public health, environmental sustainability and food and nutrition security.

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (DG JRC), in close collaboration with DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), carried out a foresight study[2] to assess the resilience of the current legislative and policy framework for food safety and nutrition, thus complementing the ex-post assessment of the on-going REFIT exercise with a forward looking perspective.

The results of the foresight study *'Delivering on EU food safety and nutrition in 2050 – Future challenges and policy preparedness*'[3], in particular the four distinct future scenarios, were at the centre of the half-day symposium on ***'The future of food in the EU'***, co-organised by the DG JRC with the Trio-Presidency of Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands.

The symposium reflected on the usefulness, necessity and scope of an EU food policy (or EU food strategy), also against the background of the debate on the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the question whether the CAP should pay more attention to a broader set of challenges, other than the ones faced by the primary sector.

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2 Foresight is a process aimed at providing the necessary anticipatory intelligence to shape medium- to long-term policies. It enhances forward-looking thinking by gathering a wide range of stakeholders and knowledge sources and by systematically exploring alternative perspectives on the future to guide today's decision-making. In contrast to predicting the future, Foresight considers the future as something that can be created and formed. In this sense, Foresight supports actors and stakeholders in actively shaping the future.

3 https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/delivering-eu-food-safety-and-nutrition-2050-future-challenges-and-policy-preparedness. Printed copies available on request at jrc-f-dir-office@ec.europa.eu.

The programme of the symposium combined the presentation of the study results and perspectives on food policies from Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands, plus DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), with a panel discussion with various stakeholders (see programme in Annex 1, and presentations in Annex 2).

Presentations

After opening and introductory remarks by Robert de Groot, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the EU, Alexander Micovin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the EU, and Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director-General of DG JRC, the foresight approach and the results of the study, with a focus on the four future scenarios, was presented by Franz Ulberth, Head of Unit in DG JRC. The scenarios were constructed based on different developments of specific drivers that can significantly impact and bring change to the food system. These drivers are global trade, EU economic growth, agro-food chain structure, technology uptake, social cohesion, food values, climate change, depletion of natural resources and world population growth. The resulting scenarios describe four alternative, distinct directions of development:

Global food: globalised food chains and a further concentrated global food industry with a pre-dominance of highly processed convenience food.

Regional food: trade fragmentation, the EU moves towards a circular, self-sufficient economy with citizens actively involved in food production.

Pharma food: the striving EU food industry is the global market leader in functional and pharmaceutical food, catering to the demand of very health aware citizens.

Partnership food: a non-competitive EU teams up with an economically stronger partner while facing brain-drain and loss of technological know-how with predominance of highly processed convenience food.

For each scenario, a number of food safety and nutrition challenges were identified and prioritised based on their importance and likelihood to occur. On this basis, scenario-specific policy options were developed to inform policy-makers on how these challenges may be addressed to ensure resilience of the future EU food safety and nutrition regulatory framework.

Tassos Haniotis, Director DG AGRI C (Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis) detailed the CAP-related aspects of food production and consumption in the EU. Climate change is expected to have a considerable impact in the future, while trade might move from multilateral to more fragmentation and bilateral agreements. Mr Haniotis identified tensions and possible trade-offs between economic interests and environmental aspects, and between jobs and growth in times of increasing automation of food production processes. The issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is becoming more urgent, is one example where several policy areas need to work together to find a solution. In general, the choice of political instruments needs to be discussed in the context of the future CAP and any future food policy, e.g. will regulation, incentives, or subsidies coupled with certain requirements best serve the objectives?

Three EU Member States presented their perspectives on national food strategies. Sweden (presentation by Mathilda Åberg, DHoU, Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation) set up a national food strategy 2030 which includes resilience as a main element. The agreed vision aspires towards a competitive food chain where the total food production increases, while reducing vulnerability of the food chain and sustainably increasing self-sufficiency.

Felice Assenza, Director-General for International Affairs of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, called for an integrated food policy at national, EU and global level to face the challenges ahead in terms of climate change, natural resource scarcity and thus food and nutrition security. The *Milan Charter*,[4] an initiative stemming from the Expo 2015, endorses this need. Italy already took action to move towards a more sustainable food chain. Most notably are co-operations with industry on food reformulation and advertisement to children to reduce the obesity burden of children, plus initiatives to reduce food waste.

[4] http://carta.milano.it/en/

The Netherlands started considering a more holistic food policy already in 2012. Frans Brom from the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy, presented the 2012 report *'Towards a food policy*'. The development over the past years of an increasingly complex 'food net', and the interdependency of production and consumption calls for a more encompassing policy approach, a food strategy, with a focus on the resilience of the 'food net'. Mr Brom emphasised the need for an EU-level food strategy with a clear vision and objectives.

Panel discussion

In the ensuing **panel discussion**, led by Krijn Poppe, Wageningen University, the following stakeholders participated:

- Beate Kettlitz, Director, Food Policy, Science and R&I of Food Drink Europe
- Ladislav Miko, Deputy DG for Food Safety of the European Commission, DG SANTE
- Wojciech Kalamarz, Head of Unit for Health Determinants & Inequality of the European Commission, DG SANTE
- Jock Martin, Head of Integrated Environmental Assessments at the European Environment Agency
- Camille Perrin, Senior Food Policy Officer, European Consumer Organisation BEUC
- Beat Späth, Director for Agricultural Biotech of EuropaBio

Krijn Poppe structured the discussion along the four scenarios of the JRC foresight study. While it is not expected that we will see any one of the four scenarios becoming reality, we will probably see the parallel development of several of the trends and impacts described in the scenarios.

The **'Global food' scenario** was perceived as reflecting a business as usual perspective with many of the described trends already being visible, such as obesity and increasing antimicrobial resistance. Affordability of food is thought to play a major role in the context of healthy diets. While initiatives to prevent diet-related chronic diseases have been started in the EU and are being monitored, the question remains if this will be sufficient to effect considerable change as we move towards 2050, or if measures in addition to, for example, reformulation of food, need to be taken. Reformulation is a challenge for the food industry but can also be an opportunity to move to more innovative products. The food industry already engages in research initiatives to foster healthier lifestyles, including healthier diets.

For making a circular economy with significantly reduced resource use happen, as described in the scenario **'Regional food'**, more needs to be known about the relationships between production, consumption and related resource use. The implications of an ageing population for food consumption and population density in rural areas could be further explored. In this scenario, maybe lower levels of food safety will need to be accepted, as individual producers and e.g. street food will gain more importance. However, liability rules will need to be in place to cover any future 'Food Uber', and the food industry will strive to avoid food safety scandals to protect their reputation. In terms of nutrition, learning the lessons from the tobacco case, a societal debate would be needed whether banning certain foods should be considered or not. While a further integration of food-related policies is considered necessary, upcoming challenges can be tackled with the current distribution of responsibilities in the Commission (and Member States).

Health plays a significant role in the **'Pharma food' scenario**, with a lot of emphasis placed on disease prevention via personalised diets and foods. While broad consumer acceptance and usefulness of such food is questioned, some people already today pursue this kind of nutrition and the regulator needs to be ready if this trend should increase. In addition, the future context might change should, for example, health care systems come under increasing pressure. Possible risks of new food technologies should be considered and discussed early on in the development process to avoid drawbacks later on.

The loss of technological know-how, as described in the scenario **'Partnership food'**, is thought to happen already today for agro-biotechnology. However, some expect that consumers will never become as indifferent to the food they eat as described in the scenario.

In their **final statements**, participants called for including the future of food in the (societal) discussions about the future of the EU. They also emphasised that 'more Europe' is needed in the area of nutrition and health. Arūnas Vinčiūnas, Head of cabinet of Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, invited Member States to put forward a reflection paper on future food policy to complement the range of reflection papers produced by the Commission in the context of the discussions about the future of the EU. He identified education as one of the main avenues to foster change in relation to reduction of food waste, overcoming the fear of technological progress and the move towards healthier diets. Furthermore, the role of regulation for these issues needs to be discussed.

Neil Kerr, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, **closed the meeting** expressing hopes that the symposium will contribute to the European debate on the future of food. Notably that it will stimulate the necessary forward thinking to facilitate a policy development and implementation that reflects Europe's leading role in food safety and nutrition security.

Symposium on

The Future of Food in the EU

organised by

the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

together with

the Trio Presidency of Malta, Slovakia and the Netherlands

on

27 June 2017 from 9.00-13.00h

@ the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU, Kortenberglaan 4-10, Brussels

This symposium will present the JRC Foresight Study "**Delivering on EU Food Safety and Nutrition in 2050 – Future challenges and policy preparedness**", commissioned by DG SANTE, share views and food policies of Member States and will provide a platform for a multi-disciplinary discussion on the Future of Food in the EU with stakeholders representing a wide range of perspectives related to the entire food chain. The goal of the symposium is to contribute to the European debate on the future of food, stimulate forward thinking and subsequently provide input to policy development and implementation that reflects Europe's leading role in food safety and nutrition security.

Program

9.00 - **Registration** and coffee/tea
9.30 - Opening by **Robert de Groot**, NL PR to the EU and **Alexander Micovin,** SK DPR to the EU
9.35 - Welcome by **Charlina Vitcheva,** Deputy DG of the Joint Research Centre
9.40 - Presentation of the JRC Foresight Study "**Delivering on EU Food Safety and Nutrition in 2050 – Future challenges and policy preparedness**"*, by **Franz Ulberth,** Joint Research Centre
10.10 - Perspective of DG AGRI on the Future of Food in the EU, by **Tassos Haniotis,** Director of Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis of DG AGRI
10.25 - Presentation of perspectives on Food Policies of **Member States**
- **Mathilda Åberg,** Dty. Head of Unit for Agriculture & Environment of the Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation of **Sweden**
- **Felice Assenza,** DG for International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of **Italy**
- **Frans Brom,** Director of **The Netherlands** Scientific Council for Government Policy

11.10 - Coffee break
11.40 - Panel discussion on The Future of Food:
- **Olivier De Schutter**, Co-Chair of IPES-Food and former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- **Ladislav Miko**, Deputy DG for Food Safety of the European Commission
- **Beate Kettlitz**, Director Food Policy, Science and R&I of Food Drink Europe
- **Wojciech Kalamarz,** Head of Unit for Health Determinants & Inequality of the European Commission
- **Jock Martin**, Head of Integrated Environmental Assessments at the EU Environment Agency of the EC
- **Camille Perrin,** Senior Food Policy Officer, European Consumer Organisation BEUC
- **Beat Späth,** Director for Agricultural Biotech of EuropaBio

13.10 - Closing remarks by the **European Commission**
13.15 - Closing by **Neil Kerr**, Dty. Permanent Representative of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU

PRESENTATIONS (1-5)

1. Franz Ulberth, DG JRC

Objectives

- To identify possible future challenges to the EU food safety and nutrition policy and regulatory framework

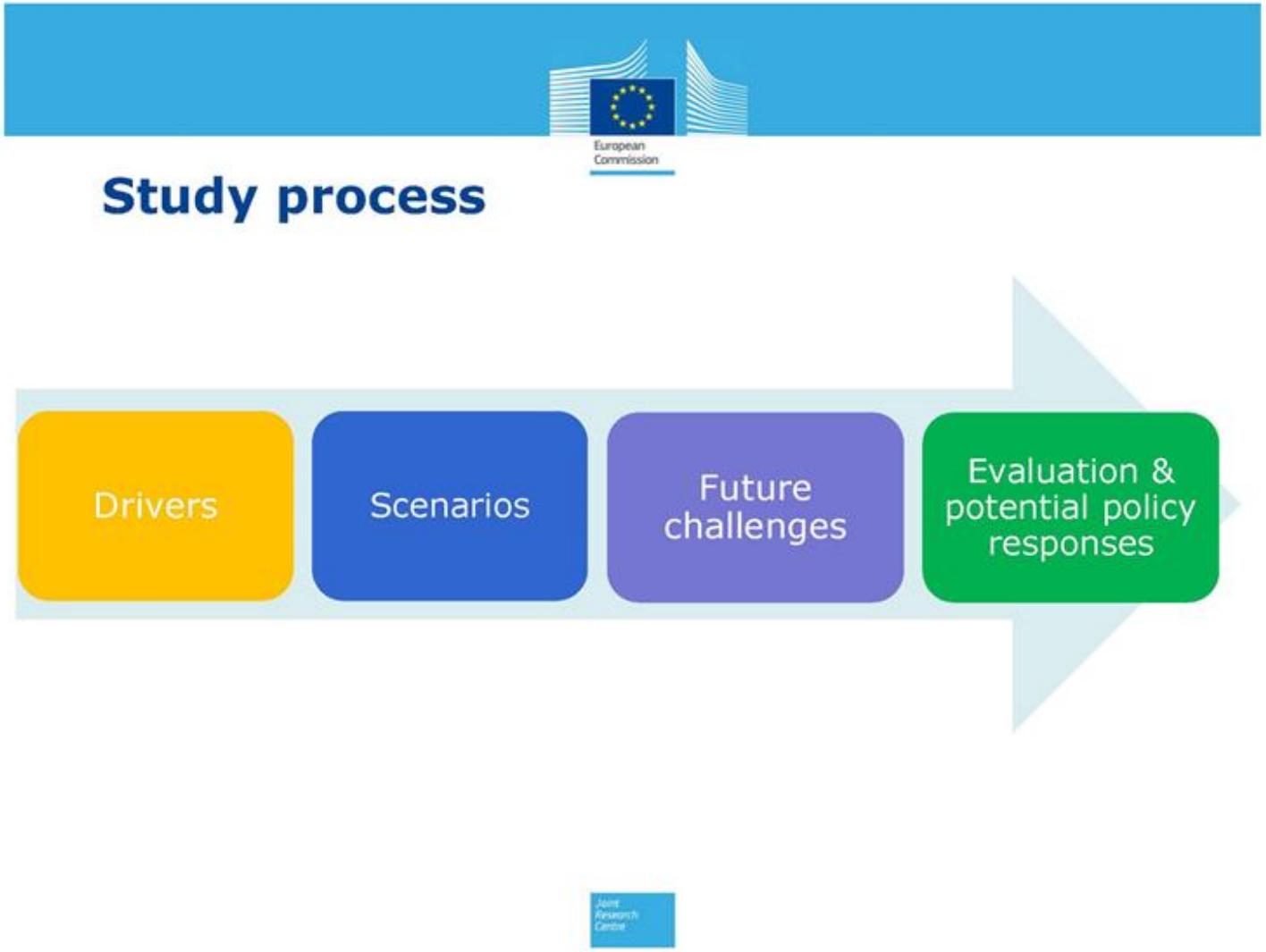
- To assess whether the current food policy and regulatory framework is sufficiently resilient to deal with the challenges and, if appropriate, identify research needs and develop policy recommendations

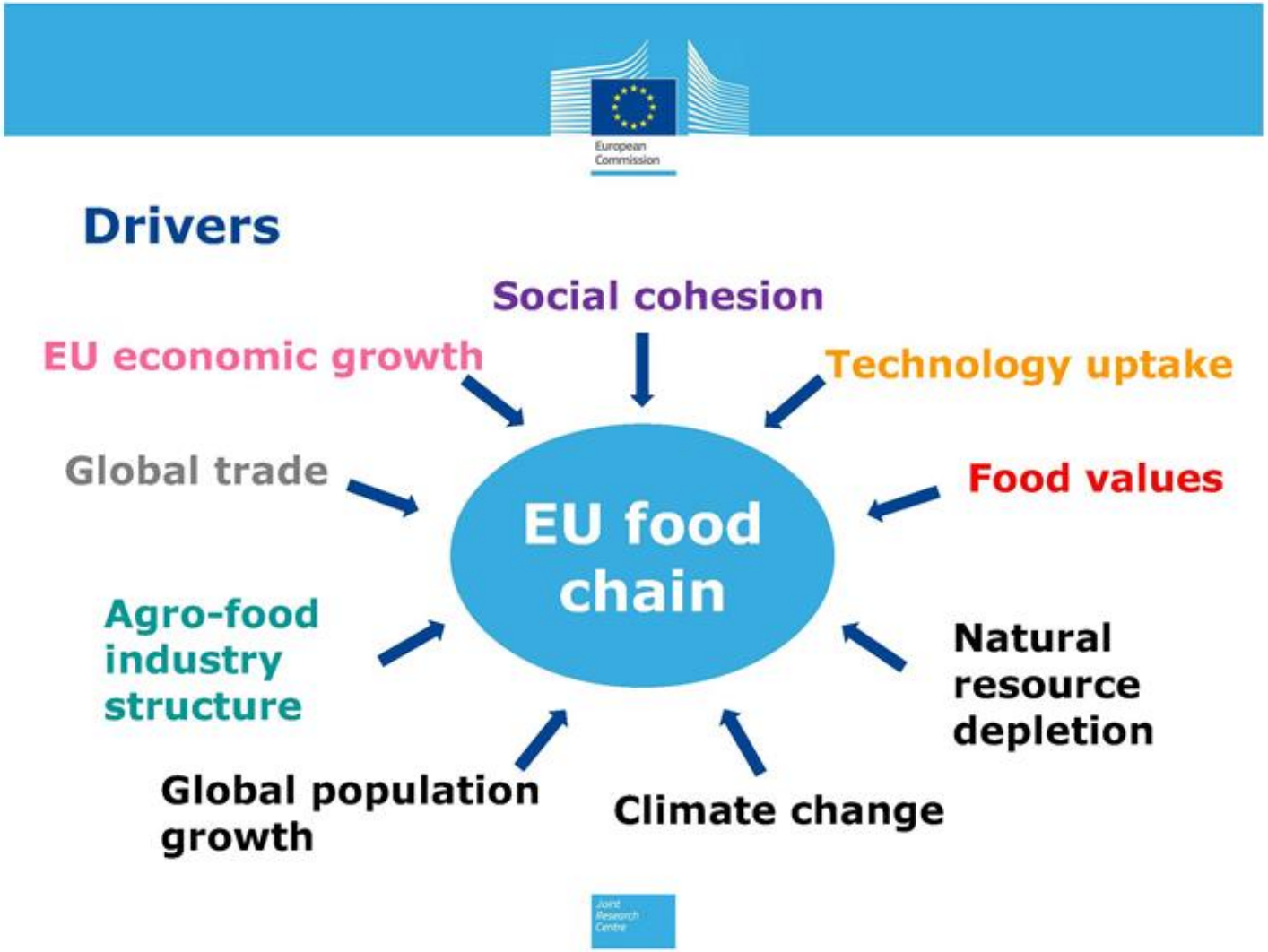
Foresight approach

- Does not predict the future; considers it as something that can be shaped
- Assumes that there are numerous possible futures, alternative developments
- Gathers anticipatory intelligence from a wide range of knowledge sources in a systematic way
- Enhances future thinking beyond established pathways and links it to today's decision making

Scenarios

- **Plausible:**
  must fall within the limits of what might conceivably happen
- **Internally consistent:**
  the combination of logics within a scenario must not have any built-in inconsistency that could undermine the credibility of the scenario
- **Diverse:**
  should be structurally different, not too close to each other to avoid being simply variations of a base case
- **Useful for decision-making:**
  should provide specific insights into the future that will inform decision-making (for us: challenging scenarios)





Driver characteristics per scenario

Driver	"Global Food"	"Regional Food"	"Partnership Food"	"Pharma Food"
Global trade	Full liberalisation	Disrupted and fragmented	EU trade focus on the US & Canada	Full liberalisation
EU economic growth	Medium	Decoupled, GDP no longer used as indicator	Stagnation	High
Agro-food chain structure	Concentration	Diversification, alternative food chains	Concentration	Concentration
Technology uptake	High	High with focus on environmental sustainability	High	High with focus on nutrition & health
Social cohesion	Low	High	Limited to local community	High
Food values	Low	High with focus on local production & quality	Low	High with focus on nutrition & health
Climate change	2°C threshold of temperature increase will be reached by 2050			
Depletion of natural resources	Progressive natural resource depletion towards 2050			
World population growth	World population will increase to about 9 billion by 2050			

European Commission

Global Food

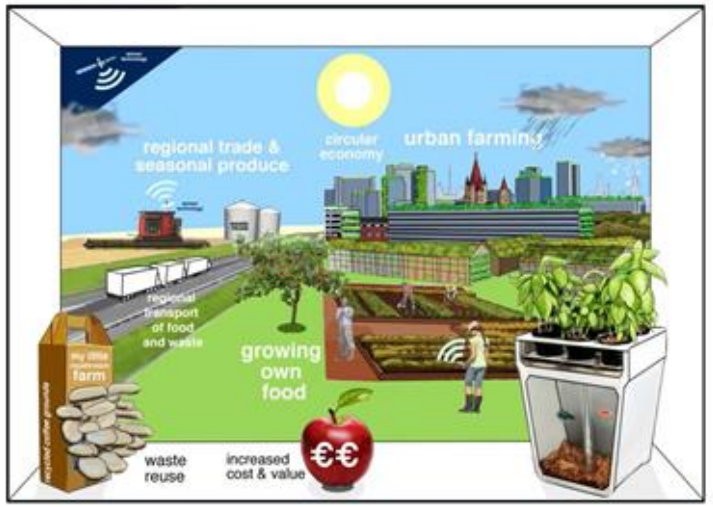
- Liberalised trade and global food chain
- EU one of many players
- Raw materials sourced globally– long complex food chains
- **Broad technology acceptance**
- **Concentration of agro-food industry; mass production of processed, affordable foods**
- **Diets driven by price, taste, convenience**
- **Health and social inequalities**
- **CC, natural resources depletion, global population growth**

Joint Research Centre

European Commission

Regional Food

- Localisation/regionalisation/ homesteading
- Technology for sustainable use of resources
- Mix of large entities and localised food production
- High social value of food; diets low in animal protein
- Strong sense of communal values and community responsibility
- CC, natural resources depletion global population growth



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European Commission

Partnership Food

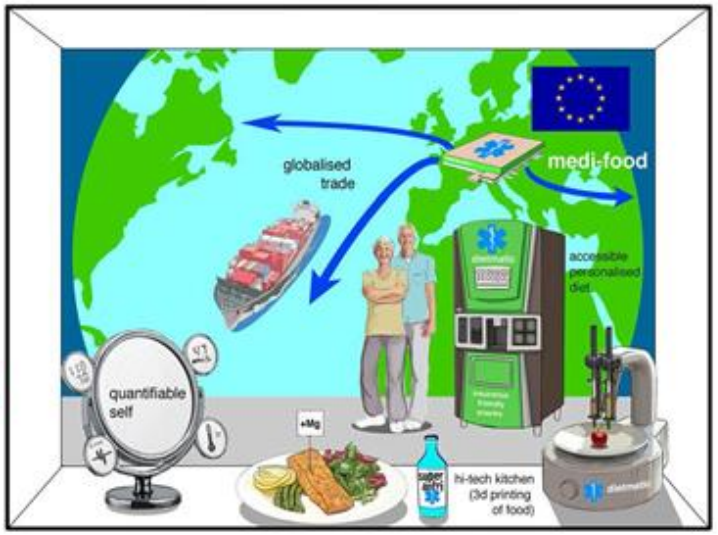
- Economic stagnation in EU
- Transatlantic trade block
- Novel technologies are imported, and accepted
- Big corporations dominate food chain (efficient mass production)
- Price and convenience drive food choice, trans-atlantic food culture
- Inequalities
- CC, natural resources depletion, global population growth

Joint Research Centre

European Commission

Pharma Food

- High-tech world – maximise HLY, CC adaptation, diversity
- "Phood": Pharma & food sectors converge + ICT; concentration
- EU is a strong player worldwide
- Global trade and global food chains
- **Health is the main driver for food choices, personalised nutrition**
- Social well-being?
- CC, natural resources depletion, global population growth



Joint Research Centre

Prioritised challenges

Challenge Title	"Global Food"	"Regional Food"	"Partnership Food"	"Pharma Food"
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies including suitability of exposure data and maximum residue levels	■	■	■	■
Increased sedentary behaviour and snacking due to changed life-style	■		■	
Provision of complex quality labelling information to the consumer and opportunity for fraud	■			■
Ability to perform official food-related controls in different future food systems	■			■
Food of different safety and quality classes	■			
Differences in the handling of food in third countries due to diverging food safety standards	■			
Intensive animal and plant production systems: disease transmission and nutritional quality	■			
Failure to provide appropriate food safety information to the consumer		■		
Temporary shortage of fresh produce and food poverty in a self-sufficient food system		■		
Re-introduction of food waste and organic side-stream products in the food chain		■		
Diets based exclusively on plant-based products		■		
Food safety responsibility in the hands of individual producers		■		
Inadequate food safety and nutrition literacy, loss of food traditions and increased exposure to unreliable sources of information			■	
The loss of scientific and technological knowhow in Europe			■	
Diets based predominantly on highly processed foods and decreased availability of fresh produce			■	
Increased exposure to chemicals and nano-materials from food contact materials migrating in food and from the environment via packaging waste			■	
Safety challenges of processed and pre-packaged food: appearance of new processing contaminants and food-borne disease outbreaks				■
Potential drawbacks of personalised nutrition as a predominant dietary practice				■
Emerging biological risks: (b) Differences in the virulence of microorganisms and parasites and the appearance of new strains				■

Joint Research Centre

Global Food: prioritised challenges

Main Prioritised Challenges
Differences in the handling of food in third countries due to diverging food safety standards
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (including suitability of exposure data and current maximum residue levels)
Ability to perform official food-related controls
Increased sedentary behaviour and snacking due to changed lifestyles *&* *Diets based predominantly on highly processed foods and decreased availability of fresh produce*
Provision of complex quality labelling information to the consumer and opportunity for fraud

Global Food: Policy options

Main Prioritised Challenges	Potential policy options
Differences in the handling of food in third countries due to diverging food safety standards)	Building efficient food safety standards that also include implementation details
	Co-regulation or enforced self-regulation by food business operators
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (including suitability of exposure data and current maximum residue levels)	Enhance collaboration between risk assessment bodies
	Horizon scanning to identify vulnerabilities in the supply chain
Ability to perform official food-related controls	Long-term funding mechanisms
	Expand third country controls
	Enhancing surveillance to ensure food safety during transportation
	Improving traceability using related technologies
Increased sedentary behaviour and snacking due to changed lifestyles & *Diets based predominantly on highly processed foods and decreased availability of fresh produce*	Fiscal measures
	Food reformulation and other incentives
	Zoning and other limitations
	Standards and guidelines for public procurement
	Funding of national and European food and diet related actions
	Improve nutrition education
	Improve the provision of nutrition information
Provision of complex quality labelling information to the consumer and opportunity for fraud	Harmonisation at international level

Centre

Regional Food: prioritised challenges

Main Prioritised Challenges
Food safety responsibility in the hands of individual producers
Failure to provide appropriate food safety information to the consumer
Re-introduction of food waste and organic side-stream products in the food chain
Temporary shortages of fresh produce and food poverty in a self-sufficient food system

Regional Food: policy options

Main Prioritised Challenges	Potential policy option
Food safety responsibility in the hands of individual producers	Expansion of the scope of the General Food Law and hygiene regulations and the related control implications to individual food producers
	Establishment of a list of "risk" products
	Food safety education
Failure to provide appropriate food safety information to the consumer	Social networks and ICTs
Re-introduction of food waste and organic side-stream products in the food chain	Expansion of the scope of General Food Law and feed hygiene regulations to individual producers
	Communal food waste handling or recycling centres
	Proactive education initiatives
Temporary shortages of fresh produce and food poverty in a self-sufficient food system	Emergency mechanisms for food re-distribution
	Quotas
	Proactive nutrition education

Partnership Food: prioritised challenges

Main Prioritised Challenges
Inadequate food safety and nutrition literacy, loss of food traditions and increased exposure to unreliable sources of information
Diets based predominantly on highly processed foods and decreased availability of fresh produce
The loss of scientific and technological know-how in Europe
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (incl. suitability of exposure data and maximum residue levels)

Partnership Food: policy options

Main Prioritised Challenges	Potential policy option
Inadequate food safety and nutrition literacy, loss of food traditions and increased exposure to unreliable sources of information	Mandatory food safety and nutrition education
	Increase Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue
Diets based predominantly on highly processed foods and decreased availability of fresh produce	Fiscal measures
	Food reformulation and other incentives
	Zoning and other limitations
	Standards and guidelines for public procurement
	Funding of national and European food and diet related actions
	Improve nutrition education
	Improve the provision of nutrition information
The loss of scientific and technological know-how in Europe	Addressing food governance barriers
	Reduce cost of regulatory compliance
	Improving consumer perception of innovation
	Increased co-operation with food business operators
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (incl. suitability of exposure data and maximum residue levels)	Risk-benefit assessment and management
	Streamlining risk assessment by increasing the collaboration between all actors

Joint Research Centre

Pharma Food: prioritised challenges

Main Prioritised Challenges
Potential drawbacks of personalised nutrition as a predominant dietary practice
Ability to perform official food-related controls
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (incl. suitability of exposure data and maximum residue levels)

Pharma Food: policy options

Main Prioritised Challenges	Potential policy option
Potential drawbacks of personalised nutrition as a predominant dietary practice	Adapting or creating an effective regulatory framework
	Redefining health and nutrition claims
Ability to perform official food-related controls	Regulating "phood" manufacture: "Phood licence"
	Post-market monitoring and "nutrivigilance" controls
	Expand third country controls
Suitability of the current EU risk assessment procedures for new food ingredients, food products and food-related technologies (incl. suitability of exposure data and maximum residue levels)	Dealing with cumulative effects and long term exposure

Key insights

- The legislative framework governing food safety in the EU is robust, effective and efficient
- Action needed for improving the effectiveness of EU nutrition policies
- Harmonisation of risk assessment approaches to allow for the inclusion of other legitimate factors such as health benefits and socio-economic consequences
- A suitable and harmonised metric for benchmarking and monitoring food safety performance in the EU needs to be established
- An effective early warning system for emerging hazards at EU level is missing
- Adaptation of official control and inspection services to future needs
- Investment in providing food safety and nutrition education to the public

Joint Research Centre

Common considerations

- **Complexity of food system**
  - Safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable
- **Holistic, integrated policy approach**
- **Future stresses**
  - Challenging resilience, adding complexity
- **Trade-offs necessary? How to address them (transparency)**

JRC Team:

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Petros Maragkoudakis
Anne-Katrin Bock
Jan Wollgast
Sandra Caldeira
Franz Ulberth

The report can be found here

2. Tassos Haniotis, DG AGRI

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3. Mathilda Åberg, Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation of Sweden

Objectives for strategic areas

Rules and regulations

Consumers and markets

Knowledge and innovation

Rules and regulations

Reduce administrative costs
Facilitate to do right
Appropriate and equivalent controls

Consumer and markets

Meet consumer needs and demands
Make informed choices
Increased export
Organic production and consumption

Knowledge and innovation

Increase coordination within the food sector
Develop and formulate need for research and innovation
Advice and skills development, education and training
Attractiveness

Implementation

Financing, € 100 million 2017 - 2019
- measures in Rural Development Programme
- government action plan, some 40 actions

Structural changes
- Sector initiative, cooperation arena
- "game changer" in administration
- Dialogue through National Council, advisory

Thank you for your attention!

Felice Assenza, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of Italy

28/06/2017

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4. Frans Brom, The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy

6/29/2017

Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

- Independent think tank for Dutch government policy
- Council and staff
- Strategic long term issues
- Beyond individual policy sectors
- Solicited and unsolicited advice
- www.wrr.nl

Towards a food policy

- Two year project
- Lead council member: Gerard de Vries
- > 100 interviews
- Review international literature
- International visits
- Presented on October 3rd 2014
- Cabinet response October 30th 2015

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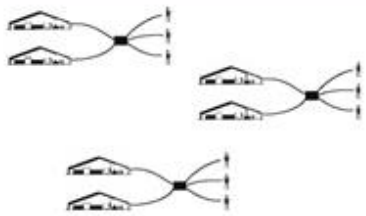
Three global challenges

Ecological sustainability	Health	Robustness
		
- Climate change - Land & water - Resources - Biodiversity	- Food related diseases - Food safety - Multi-resistent bacteria - Zoonoses	- More volatility - Geopolitics - Concentration and uniformity

Main developments in past decades

- Industrialisation of agriculture
- Globalisation of food supply
- Increased role of non-agricultural players
- Change of consumption patterns

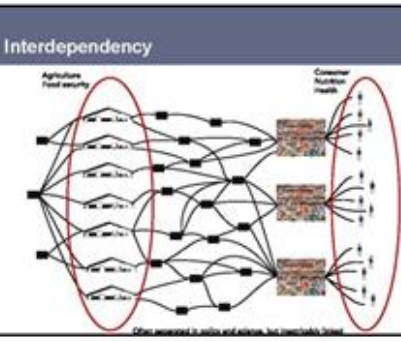
When food was agriculture



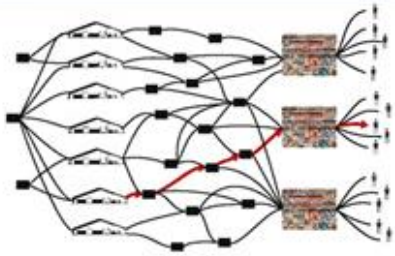
2

Food net

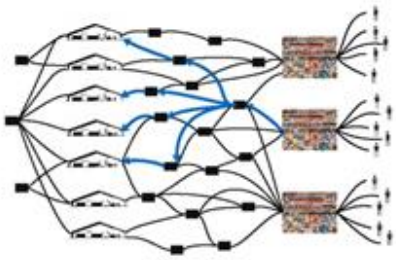
Interdependency



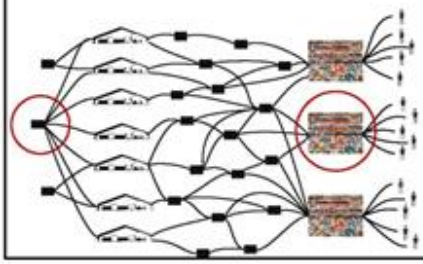
Chain management



Processed food combines many flows



Hubs as potential leverage points



Recommendations

Main recommendations for Dutch government

- From an agricultural policy towards a food policy
- Focus on the resilience of the food net

Towards a food policy

- Develop a food strategy
  - Include differences in 'food values'
  - Broaden available policy information
  - Explicate power relations in food net
- Interdependency of production and consumption
  - Sustainability is not only a production issue
  - Public health is not confined to consumer choice
  - ➔ Anchoring sustainability & health in core policies

Towards a resilient food net

- Facilitate variety
- Sustainable management of resources
- Improve learning capabilities

Responding ministries on behalf of the cabinet

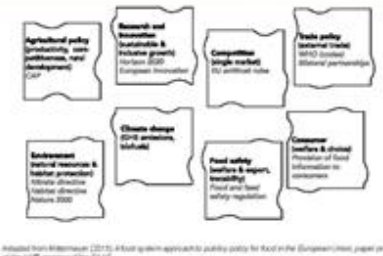
Cabinet response

- Cabinet response was published October 30th 2015
  - *"Alterations to the food system are needed in order to be able to guarantee sufficient sustainable and healthy food for the long term."*
  - *Cabinet would like to introduce health considerations next tot sustainability considerations in CAP.*
  - *Research to gain more insight into the resilience of the Dutch food system*

The discussion continuous…

- Cabinet invites stakeholders
  - to further structure food agenda
- Cabinet reports progress
  - regularly to Parliament
- Gaining insight
  - Broadening Policy Information (RIVM, National Institute for Public Health and Environment; PBL Netherlands Envir. Assess. Agency, Wageningen UR)
- Broader strategic discussions
  - In the broad agro-food-sector (e.g. Wageningen UR)
  - In strategic advise (e.g. Council for the Environment & Infrastructure, RLI)

Need for an EU 'food policy'



Adapted from Wittemeyer (2013) A food system approach to a policy policy for food in the European Union, paper presented at the 140th seminar of the EAAE

Some points for an EU food strategy

- Response to the grand challenges the food system is facing
  - Current framework seems fragmented and inconsistent
- Dot on the horizon →explicates choices
  - Guides action and allows for coordinated action
- Connects different parties
  - Take the complex food net as point of departure
- Gain more insights
  - Broaden strategic information over the whole food net

Relevant links:

- WRR Food-report:
- https://english.wrr.nl/publications/reports/2016/12/13/towards-a-food-policy
- Work in progress of the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure (Rli):
- http://en.rli.nl/work-in-progress/towards-a-healthier-and-more-sustainable-food-system
- European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics:
- http://www.eursafe.org/