



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: European Week Conference in Bucharest  
- *Request from the Romanian delegation*

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Delegations will find in Annex a document submitted by the Romanian delegation to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 14 April 2014.

**Summary Report**  
**Regional Conference Week**  
**29 March – 4 April 2014, Bucharest, Romania**

Romania hosted the “**Regional Conference Week**” in Bucharest, between 29<sup>th</sup> of March and 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. The events, organized by FAO and the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, included the twenty-ninth FAO European Regional Conference (ERC) and the thirty - eighth session of the [European Commission on Agriculture](#) (ECA).

The conference week in Bucharest also hosted the NGOs/CSOs Consultation meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014, and the CFS Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, on 31 March 2014.

The 29th FAO Regional Conference for Europe was opened by the Romanian Prime Minister, Victor Ponta, and chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development - Daniel Constantin. European Union and 46 national delegations, 36 observers and 13 non-governmental organizations attended the Conference and 24 countries were represented at high level (ministers/deputy ministers/state secretaries).

The ministerial round table focused on food losses and waste in the region. Some of the conclusions of the round table were that coordinated and forceful actions are called for, and in many cases, the private sector will need to take the lead. It was also underlined that consumer behaviour is only part of the picture and significant levels of food loss can as well as occur at farm level, during storage, transport and processing.

The ministers and delegates called on FAO to intensify its analytical work to better understand the causes of food losses and waste and help countries build their own capacity for improved statistics and data.

The documentation was improved in terms of understanding of fundamental causes of food losses and waste (FLW) along selected food supply chains in developing countries of European and Central Asia region and raise awareness on the need for introduction of appropriate policy interventions to mitigate the impact of FLW on food security and incomes of smallholders in the region.

The Regional Conference for Europe approved the priorities for FAO activities in the region for 2014-2015 and endorsed two over-arching initiatives for FAO to pursue in 2014-15: strengthening family farms and smallholder agriculture, improving agri-food trade and regional trade integration. Family farming figured prominently on the ERC agenda and it was a cross-cutting theme in all debates.

Other major areas of work in the region will be: controlling agricultural pests and diseases and food safety hazards, managing natural resources including fisheries and forests, coping with climate change, conserving plant and animal genetic resources.

The 38<sup>th</sup> session of the European Commission on Agriculture prepared the discussions at the Regional Conference, offering the framework for detailed discussions on priorities for FAO activities in the region. Other important topic discussed at ECA included: “Cooperatives and their alternatives”, whose purpose was to provide information on how to build value chains in the region that include smallholder farming and increase the incomes of small farms; “Agri-Food Systems for better nutrition in Europe and Central Asia, which highlighted the need for multisectorial and interdisciplinary approaches; “Towards risk-based drought management in Europe and Central Asia”.

The following side events took place: [“Public Private Partnership Challenges and Opportunities”](#), [“Save and Grow: Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture”](#), [“Food Wastage Footprint: the Hidden Costs”](#), [“Round table on the IPA-related governance reforms”](#)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, Romania and the Republic of Moldova organized a side event focused on wine and traditional food, followed by a wine tasting. The event was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, Daniel Constantin and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Republic of Moldova, Vasile Bumacov and benefited from the presence of EU Commissioner Dacian Ciolos and the representatives of the participant countries.