

Council prioritises actions for sustainable food systems: conclusions on the farm to fork strategy

Today, the Council adopted a set of conclusions on the farm to fork strategy, **endorsing the goal of developing a European sustainable food system**, from production to consumption. The conclusions entail a two-fold political message from the member states: **ensure sufficient and affordable food while contributing to EU climate neutrality by 2050 and ensuring a fair income and strong support for primary producers.**



The unanimous decision reached is a crucial signal and a clear commitment to a sustainable and economically viable agri-food sector. For the first time, the entire food system is taken into account as a whole – from producers to consumers. It is a solid starting point and we are looking forward to working altogether the coming years towards a truly sustainable and fair food system in Europe and beyond.

Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of Germany

Through the conclusions, the Council calls for **scientifically-sound ex-ante impact assessments** to be the basis of EU legislative proposals under the farm to fork strategy. It also calls to continue promoting the **prudent and responsible use of pesticides, antimicrobials and fertilisers** in order to produce food sustainably and support the environment at the same time. Moreover, ministers call for a **level playing field on competitive agri-food markets** and compatibility with WTO rules.

In the conclusions, member states recognise that European food is already a **global standard** for safety, nutritional value and high quality and, thus, they recognise the importance of promoting **sustainability of food systems at a global level**. This would result in more ambitious **commitments from non-EU countries** in environmental protection, use of pesticides and antimicrobials, animal health and more.

Background

The Commission presented the farm to fork strategy in May 2020, highlighting that it is an integral part of the European Green Deal setting the goal of a “fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system”. The transition to this new food system will be underpinned by the CAP reform.

Ministers have previously reiterated the importance of including the strategy's objectives and targets in the future CAP national strategic plans through country-specific recommendations. The Commission has confirmed that the recommendations are not legally binding and that it would take their implementation into account when approving each national strategic plan.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

[Press release – Opening – MEPs hold a minute of silence to remember Samuel Paty](#)



Expressing his condolences to the family of Samuel Paty, a history and geography teacher brutally murdered by an Islamist terrorist in France on Friday, President Sassoli paid tribute to all those who work to uphold freedom of expression.

Outgoing MEPs

Mairead McGuinness (EPP, IE) as of 12 October

Incoming MEPs

Sara Matthieu (Greens/EFA, BE) as of 8 October

Changes to the agenda

Friday

The **second voting session** will be open from 13.15 to 14.30, the results of which will be announced at 17.00.

The **third voting session** will be open from 18:00 to 19:15, the results of which will be announced at 21.30.

The information concerning the distribution of votes is available on the website of the European Parliament under the section "Priority information".

The changes to the agenda with timing of votes can be found [here](#).

Requests by committees to start negotiations with Council and Commission

Decisions by committees to enter into inter-institutional negotiations (Rule 71) are published [on the plenary website](#).

If no request for a vote in Parliament on the decision to enter into negotiations is made by Tuesday 12.00 midnight, the committees may start negotiations.

Information on the extraordinary remote participation procedure is available [here](#).

Registration opens for European Drugs Winter and Summer Schools 2021

The EMCDDA and the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) are pleased to open registration today for two upcoming joint events in 2021: the European Drugs Winter School (EDWS) and the European Drugs Summer School (EDSS) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

EDWS 1–12 March 2021 (online): Following the success of the EDSS in 2020, taught remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisers have decided to deliver the first virtual EDWS in 2021. The theme of the event will be **Responses to, and preparedness for, health-related threats (COVID-19 lessons learned)**. Following a similar structure to the 2020 edition, the two-week course will feature live lunchtime lectures with experts and practitioners, followed by afternoon exercises. Virtual fieldwork tours will also be offered. Completion of exercises and an exam are compulsory for those wishing

to obtain credits. The sessions will be recorded and available for subsequent viewing. Increasing the offer of online training is in line with the EMCDDA's digital transformation objectives.

EDSS 28 June–2 July 2021 (Lisbon): This year, the two-week course will focus on **Vulnerable groups**. Sessions will include lectures on the prevention of drug-related problems; social determinants of drug use and interventions for vulnerable groups (homeless, prisoners, migrants). Study visits will be organised to one of the Portuguese commissions for dissuasion as well as a local harm reduction centre. During the course, students will participate in interactive workshops to discuss their own projects and views. The course will conclude with an open debate with guest speakers, followed by an exam for those wishing to obtain credits. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures will be put in place, if applicable. Deposits and fees will be reimbursed if the summer school is cancelled in case of force majeure, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The target audiences for the two events are: university students, researchers, professionals and administrators interested in working on drug issues. The previous rounds of the EDSS brought together students from the EU Member States as well as from Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas. Profiles of former alumni and their testimonials can be found on the official summer school website and their statements viewed in a promotional video ⁽³⁾.

The courses prepare professionals and students to meet the complex policy challenges that face Europe in the field of drugs. Involving scientific experts from the EMCDDA, university professors and policymakers, they provide a multi-disciplinary and inclusive approach to the study of the drugs problem in Europe and beyond.

In 2021, students will again be able to apply for scholarships. Agreements with the IPA7 and EU4MD projects will also be sought for bursaries targeting key national experts. 'Early-bird' reductions will be available. The EDSS will be run in English.

ESMA Newsletter – N°17

12 October

[Steven Maijor speaks at the ESAs Annual ECON Committee Hearing](#) □

The Chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), Steven Maijor, participated in the annual hearing of the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), together with the Chairmen of the European Banking (EBA) and European Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

12 October

[ESAs' Board of Appeal dismisses case against ESMA on alleged non-application of Union law](#)

The Joint Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs – European Banking Authority, European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, and European Securities and Markets Authority) published its decision in the appeal case brought by Mr Howerton against the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). The Board of Appeal's decision considered as inadmissible the Appellant's claim that six national financial supervisory authorities and ESMA should have taken supervisory steps in relation to an alleged non-application of Union law.

09 October

[VERENA ROSS DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT AFME CONFERENCE](#)

Today, ESMA Executive Director, Verena Ross, addressed AFME's 4th Annual European Compliance and Legal Conference raising several topics such as the impact of COVID-19 on the financial markets, the review of MiFID, MiFIR and the Market Abuse Regulation, and ESMA's priorities laid down in its 2021 Work Programme. Speech [here](#).

07 October

[ESMA ISSUES LATEST DOUBLE VOLUME CAP DATA](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has updated its public register with the latest set of double volume cap (DVC) data under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II).

05 October

[ESMA publishes updated Q&As on securitisation topics and Guidelines on Portability of Information between Securitisation Repositories](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has published its final report on the Guidelines on portability of information between securitisation repositories under the Securitisation Regulation. These Guidelines set out common provisions that a securitisation repository (SR) should follow when transferring securitisation information to another SR.

02 October

[ESMA announces update to reporting under the Money Market Funds Regulation](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's Securities Markets regulator, announces an update of the validations of the technical instructions for reporting under the Money Market Funds Regulation (MMFR).

02 October

[ESMA faces new set of challenges in 2021](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has published its 2021 Work Programme(WP), setting out its priorities and areas of focus for the next 12 months in support of its mission to enhance investor protection and promote stable and orderly financial markets.

02 October

[ESMA responds to EU Green Bond Standard consultation](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has responded to the European Commission's (EC) targeted consultation on the establishment of the EU green bond standard (GBS). ESMA highlighted that the success of the EU GBS will be determined by whether it is seen as a reliable indicator of investment in sustainable economic activities.

01 October

[ESMA updates statements on the impact of Brexit on MiFID II/MiFIR and the Benchmarks Regulation](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has updated two statements on its approach to the application of key provisions of MiFID II/MiFIR and the Benchmark Regulation (BMR).

30 September

[ESMA releases statement concerning the applicability of Level 3 guidance under the Prospectus Directive](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has released a public statement concerning the applicability of level 3 guidance published under the Prospectus Directive.

30 September

[ESMA Publishes Final Report for Guidelines on Internal Control](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has published the Final Report for its Guidelines on Internal Control for Credit Rating Agencies.

29 September

[ESMA updates regulatory technical standards \(RTS\) under the Benchmarks Regulation \(BMR\)](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority, the EU's securities markets

regulator, has published its final report containing new sets of draft regulatory technical standards (RTS) under the Benchmarks Regulation (BMR). These contain additional detailed rules to implement the European regulatory framework aimed at ensuring the accuracy and integrity of benchmarks across the European Union..

29 September

[ESMA proposes amendments to the MiFIR transparency regime for non-equity financial instruments](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has published the Final Report on the MiFID II/MiFIR transparency regime applicable to non-equity financial instruments. The proposals contained in the report aim at simplifying and bringing more efficiency to an overly complex regime and fostering harmonised application across the EU.

28 September

[ESMA updates Q&A on data reporting under EMIR](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has updated its Questions and Answers document on practical questions regarding data reporting issues, under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR).

28 September

[ESMA UPDATES Q&A ON MIFIR DATA REPORTING](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has updated its Questions and Answers document on data reporting under the Market in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFIR).

28 September

[ESMA publishes draft rules for third-country firms under new MiFIR and MiFID II regimes](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority's (ESMA), the EU securities markets regulator, has published its Final Report containing draft regulatory and implementing technical standards (RTS and ITS) on the provision of investment services and activities in the European Union (EU) by third-country firms under MiFIR and MiFID II.

28 September

[ESMA to recognise three UK CCPS from 1 January 2021](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has announced that the three central counterparties (CCPs) established in the United Kingdom (UK) – ICE Clear Europe Limited, LCH

Limited, and LME Clear Limited – will be recognised as third country CCPs (TC-CCPs) eligible to provide their services in the EU, after the end of the transition period following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU on 31 December 2020.

25 September

[ESMA consults on Fees for Benchmarks Administrators](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has launched a consultation on fees for benchmarks administrators under the BMR.

25 September

[ESMA reports decrease in prospectus activity for 2019](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator reports, in its Annual Report on prospectus activity, that in 2019 the number of prospectus approvals across the European Economic Area (EEA) decreased to 3,113 from 3,390 a fall of 8% compared to 2018. This decrease continues the downward trend observed since the 2008 financial crisis.

25 September

[ESMA consults on OTF regime](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has issued a Consultation Paper (CP) seeking input on the functioning of the Organised Trading Facility (OTF) regime in the European Union (EU).

24 September

[ESMA consults on MiFIR reference data and transaction reporting](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has launched a Consultation Paper (CP) reviewing the reference data and transaction reporting obligations under the Market in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFIR).

24 September

[ESMA publishes outcomes of MAR Review](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has today published a review of the Market Abuse Regulation (MAR). The Report is the first in-depth review of the functioning of MAR since its implementation in 2016, and its recommendations will feed into the European Commission's (EC) review of MAR.

24 September

[ESMA makes proposals to help prevent and detect WHT reclaim schemes](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has today published the Final Report on its inquiry into Cum/Ex, Cum/Cum and withholding tax (WHT) reclaim schemes. ESMA's key proposal is that national competent authorities (NCAs) for securities markets should be empowered to share information with the tax authorities, to assist in detecting WHT reclaim schemes.

23 September

[ESMA AGREES POSITION LIMITS UNDER MIFID II](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), the EU's securities markets regulator, has published three opinions on position limits regarding commodity derivatives under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive and Regulation (MiFID II/MIFIR).

[EUIPO Customer Panel on the new Key User Programme](#)

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