

European Food Forum Event

"Hungry for attention to food poverty: How can the EU address rising food poverty while reaching its Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork objectives?"

26 April 2023 (15h00-17h00 CET)

Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84961433403



Event description:

"The EU launched its Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork Strategy at the beginning of its term to set out ambitious objectives to reach climate neutrality and to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. In the meantime, global challenges have emerged. The COVID crisis has put unprecedented strain on Europe's economic system, resulting in an increase in food insecurity. According to the FAO, in 2020 alone, an additional 14 million people became moderately or severely food insecure in Europe and Central Asia, meaning they lack access to safe, nutritious, and adequate food. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has added additional inflationary pressures on businesses and households in Europe during the post-pandemic recovery.

The latest EUROSTAT data on poverty in Europe shows that 95.4 million people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2021. Additionally, new research from Kellogg Company has found that 30% of people across Europe are concerned about how they spend their money and if they can afford to feed their families. It is also clear that more people are seeking support from external agencies, such as food banks to help them manage the increasing costs.

Closing the food poverty gap while also achieving Europe's ambitious sustainability objectives requires all actors to work together. There is a role to play for policymakers, for NGOs, and for the agro-food sector - which are all critical for achieving the EU's Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork objectives and hunger relief efforts.

This event will explore the following questions:

- What is the current status of food poverty in Europe?
- What role do EU Member States and Regions see for the EU?
- What is the role of food redistribution and programmes offering breakfast in schools and how can this further be supported by policy?
- How can the EU tackle food poverty, not only through the lens of hunger relief, but also through a Green Deal Industrial Plan that helps ensure food accessibility and affordability for consumers on the one hand, and the climate and biodiversity commitments on the other?



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Hosting MEPs Ms. Tolleret,

Ms. Soraya Rodríguez Ramo,

Ms. Schneider, Mr. Kokkalis

Moderator: Giulia Garofalo – Journalist

15h00-15h10 Opening remarcs Hosting MEP Irene Tolleret, EFF Chair

15h10-15h20 Lukas Visek - Member of the cabinet - EVP EU Commission Timmermans

15h20-15h55 Panel 1: What is the status of food poverty in Europe?

- Kate Prince, Senior Manager ESG Kellogg Company Results of Kellogg's 2023 Hunger Research Across Europe
- Angela Frigo Secretary General FEBA European Food Banks Association
- **Zuzana Konradova** EU Affairs Coordinator Eurochild (In)visible Children Eurochild's 2022 report on children in need across Europe and recommendations

15h55-16h20 Panel 2: What role for the EU? A national perspective

- Carmen Gayo Rodriguez Director general to the High Commissioner for the Fight Against Child Poverty (Spain) (TBC)
- Patrice Douret President Resto du Coeur

16h20-16h50 Panel 3: What is the EU doing? Looking back and looking ahead to the next EU term

- Ruth PASERMAN Director Funds: Programming and Implementation DG EMPL EU Commission
- Will Surman Director Strategic Communications, Public Affairs and ESG FoodDrinkEurope
- Başak BABAOĞLU Manager EU Affairs Corporate Responsibility & Public Policy METRO

16h50-17h00 Conclusions Hosting MEP Soraya Rodríguez Ramo