

Maria GAFO GÓMEZ-ZAMALLOA – Short CV

Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa (ES National) is acting head of the unit “Social sustainability” in the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission. The Unit of Maria addresses the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health as well as to improving animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistance. It also follows and contributes to the policy and legislative proposals and developments related to sanitary/phytosanitary, food and feed policies. The unit is responsible as well for local development of rural areas, social inclusion, social conditionality as well as the specific schemes supporting agriculture in the outermost regions of the European Union (POSEI) and on the smaller Aegean Islands.

Maria has a long experience in the European Commission where she has worked on energy, environment, forestry and agricultural policies. She coordinated the long-term vision for rural areas adopted in 2021 as well as the EU forest strategy from 2013. She also contributed to the social and societal component of the current Common Agricultural Policy.

María holds a PhD on Forest Policy and Economics from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. She completed her studies at the Universities of Wageningen (The Netherlands) and Debrecen (Hungary). She also holds a diploma in European studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain.

Before joining the European Commission, María was a consultant at Arthur Andersen-Garrigues and participated in several development projects in Mexico, Ecuador and Paraguay with the NGO "Solidarios para el Desarrollo".