

Opening plenary

WHAT'S NEXT FOR FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENTS?

Summary

Food safety assessments play a crucial role in ensuring that food (including feed and derived products) stays safe. Being at the interface between science, society and policy, such assessments have been impacted by many abrupt changes including rapid technological and scientific developments, globalisation, global warming, societal expectations and new policy targets. Besides creating opportunities, these changes also pose critical challenges for food safety science. To ensure that food safety assessments remain fit for purpose, and continue to protect human, animal, plant and environmental health and animal welfare, they will need further advancement. This plenary session will explore how food safety science may be impacted by complexity and change, and how it will need to develop to respond to a fast-changing environment and get prepared to the challenges ahead. We will explore scenarios for the future of food systems, food safety, engagement and communication. Specific emphasis will be placed on the One Health approach in an effort to develop more integrated, cross-sectoral and collaborative health assessments. This plenary session will also set the scene for in-depth discussions that will continue in the thematic (break-out) sessions of the Conference.

Vision

The safety of the food chain from farm to fork is at the core of EFSA's mission. With its food safety assessments, EFSA – together with EU Member States – contributes to the protection of human, animal, plant and environmental health and animal welfare. The ambition to advance food safety assessments to ensure they remain fit for purpose in the face of a changing environment is at the heart of EFSA's Strategy 2027. EFSA's Strategy 2027 emphasises that new approaches to food safety are required to meet societal ambitions and policy targets for more nutritious and sustainable food, without compromising on food safety. To this end, we will explore how a One Health approach could help to deliver more integrated, cross-sectoral and collaborative health assessments that go beyond the traditional boundaries that separate scientific disciplines and organisations, and involve new stakeholders.

Background – Challenges and opportunities

Safe, nutritious and sustainable food (including feed and derived products) is essential to sustain life and our planet, and to promote good health. While food

safety assessments play a crucial role in ensuring that food stays safe, they have been impacted by many unprecedented and abrupt changes across many fields. Such changes include: technological innovations in the agricultural and food sector and beyond; increased scientific complexity; an exponential growth in data; artificial intelligence and enhanced computing power; public expectations of greater transparency, openness and engagement in risk assessment processes; societal demands for a food system that delivers nutritious food for all in a sustainable way; emerging risks and new hazards; new policy targets; and the impact of international trade, globalisation, environmental degradation and global warming. Besides creating opportunities, these changes also pose new challenges for food safety science.

To keep pace with a fast-moving world, there is a need to advance food safety assessments to ensure they remain fit for purpose, and continue to protect human, animal, plant and environmental health and animal welfare. Instead of solving problems individually, better cooperation between established food safety actors and beyond is needed to co-design, develop and implement new and more sophisticated approaches. By doing this, we can harness the benefits of an ecosystem that goes beyond traditional boundaries that separate scientific disciplines and organisations, thus combining the necessary knowledge, expertise and data to keep food safe, while making it more nutritious and sustainable.

Scope and objectives

Operating at the interface between science, society and policy, food safety assessments have been impacted by many changes across different fields. Continuous advancements will ensure that food safety assessments remain fit for purpose, and continue to protect human, animal, plant and environmental health and animal welfare.

The main objectives of the plenary session are to:

- Present scenarios for the future of food systems, food safety, engagement and communication;
- Address how food safety science is impacted by complexity and change, and how it will need to develop to respond to a changing environment and get prepared to the challenges ahead;
- Discuss how taking a One Health approach can help to deliver more integrated, cross-sectoral and collaborative health assessments that go beyond traditional boundaries that separate scientific disciplines and organisations;

- Set the scene for in-depth discussions that will continue in the thematic sessions of the Conference.

People behind the session

Session Coordinator: Yann Devos, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Chairpersons: Barbara Gallani, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Moderators: Rose O' Donovan, AGRA FACTS

Rapporteurs: Edward Bray, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); Yann Devos, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); Cinzia Percivaldi, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); Tobin Robinson, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

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Opening plenary – Session affiliate profiles

WHAT'S NEXT FOR FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENTS?

Bernhard Url, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Speaker and panellist

Dr. Bernhard Url was appointed Executive Director of EFSA in June 2014, having served as Acting Executive Director for seven months. His mandate for a second term in office was extended in June 2019 for another 5 years. Dr. Url joined EFSA in June 2012 as Head of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Department. A qualified veterinarian by training, he brings high-level management experience from food-safety organisations to his role at EFSA. Prior to joining the Authority, Dr. Url was Managing Director of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), which represents Austria on EFSA's Advisory Forum. From 2008 to March 2012, he also served as a member of EFSA's Management Board. During his 10 years at AGES, he was in charge of technical and scientific affairs with a remit that included the timely delivery of risk assessment and risk management services across a wide range of areas. This included ensuring effective risk communications during urgent food safety-related events. Prior to AGES Dr. Url spent five years as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Milk Hygiene and Milk Technology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna before running a food quality control laboratory from 1993 to 2002. Dr. Url graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna in 1987 and became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. He has published in the field of veterinary medicine with a particular focus on listeria and milk hygiene.

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Stella Kyriakides, European Commission

Speaker

On 1 December 2019, Ms. Kyriakides became the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. During the COVID-19 crisis, she has been leading the Commission's work to coordinate the EU's health response and support Member States to tackle the pandemic. She is responsible for the EU Vaccine Strategy in order to procure safe and effective vaccines for all EU Member States and Europe's broader neighborhood. She is also responsible for the establishment of a strong European Health Union and supporting Member States to strengthen healthcare systems and

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deliver better patient outcomes for all EU citizens. On food safety, Commissioner Kyriakides is leading the new 'Farm to Fork' strategy for sustainable food, covering every step in the food chain from production to consumption. Her responsibilities also include ensuring enforcement of animal welfare laws and promoting European standards globally, as well as ensuring enforcement of EU laws on food safety and animal and plant health and leading the work to protect plant health, reduce dependency on pesticides and support low-risk and non-chemical alternatives. Previously Commissioner Kyriakides worked as a clinical psychologist in the Mental Health Services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus in the area of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, from 1979-2006. In 2006 she was elected to the Cyprus Parliament and was re-elected in 2011 and 2016 for the Democratic Rally party, of which she was the Vice-President.

Title of talk: Opening address

Barbara Gallani, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Chair/Co-chair

Barbara Gallani is Head of EFSA's Communication and Partnerships (ENGAGE) Department and has been a member of EFSA's senior management team since May 2016. Barbara has extensive experience of communicating complex issues in the areas of food safety, authenticity and research to lay audiences; managing incidents and food scares; and developing and delivering specialist training courses on risk communication for UK and global audiences. She was listed as one of the UK Top 100 Scientists by the Science Council in January 2014 for her work in regulatory science. Before joining EFSA, she worked in the UK at the Food and Drink Federation, at the British Retail Consortium and at the UK Food Standards Agency, including a secondment to the European Commission (DG SANCO) and a BA Media Fellowship on science communication at the Daily Telegraph. She also worked at the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) in Brussels. Barbara holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics, a Post Graduate Certificate in Education PGCE (Physics and Sciences), a Master's Degree in Advanced Instrumentation Systems and a Professional Certificate in Executive Coaching.

Jessica Fanzo, Johns Hopkins University

Speaker

Jessica Fanzo, PhD is the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics and Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs and the Nitze School of Advanced

International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. She holds appointments in the Berman Institute of Bioethics and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She serves as the Director of Hopkins' Global Food Policy and Ethics Program, and as Director of Food & Nutrition Security at Hopkins' Alliance for a Healthier World. She is the Editor-in-Chief for the Global Food Security Journal and leads on the development of the Food Systems Dashboard, in collaboration with GAIN. From 2017 to 2021, Fanzo served on the Food Systems Economic Commission, the Global Panel of Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition Foresight 2.0 report, and the EAT-Lancet Commission. She was also the Co-Chair of the Global Nutrition Report and Team Leader for the UN High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Systems and Nutrition. Before coming to Hopkins, she has also held positions at Columbia University's Earth Institute and College of Medicine, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the UN World Food Programme, Bioversity International, and the Millennium Development Goal Centre at the World Agroforestry Center in Kenya. In 2021, she published her first book, *Can Fixing Dinner Fix the Planet?* and co-wrote *Global Food Systems, Diets, and Nutrition: Linking Science, Economics, and Policy*.

Title of talk: From safe food to sustainable food systems

Abstract of talk

The world has many lessons on how food systems respond to shocks, be they, climate-related natural disasters, wide and fast spreading foodborne illnesses, and zoonotic spillover events that have led to pandemics. These shocks are costly in terms of finances, human and animal toll, and environmental instability. When a shock, such as a pandemic, impacts food systems, the consequences are immediate with potential long-term implications. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted actors in all parts of the food systems' decreasing production capacity, slowing, or limiting market access, limiting remittances as safety nets, lowering employment opportunities, and triggering unexpected medical costs. Deep global economic shocks caused by the pandemic will continue to affect the movement of cash and finance of producers and access of small and medium agri-businesses to financial institutions. High levels of unemployment, loss of income, and rising food costs are also making access to food difficult for many. Prices of basic foods have begun to rise in some countries at a time when people have less money in their pockets. Food price volatility also generates uncertainty. More food staples and unhealthier, highly processed foods that are cheaper and have longer shelf lives will be consumed because of price hikes and shortage and stock-out speculation. More nutritious foods are expensive, hard to come by, and perishable. The changes towards more

sup-optimal dietary patterns impact the quality of diets and their contributing risk to longer-term chronic disease, with significant health, economic and societal costs. In the long-term, the COVID-19 health crisis will unwittingly use the food system as a catapult to have an even more significant impact on the global burden of disease. Also, in the long-term, there will be consequences of unfinished agendas. Climate change is one. Continued conflicts, climate change, more violent, less predictable natural disasters, and the massive burden of malnutrition - also known as a Syndemic-- that proceeded COVID-19 has been continuously undermining food security in many contexts. Agriculture and associated land-use change account for nearly one-quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, making the sector the second biggest industrial emitter of greenhouse gases after the energy sector. Governments, researchers, and development practitioners must recognize that the health of people, animals and our shared environment are tightly interconnected. There is a need for a greater understanding of how our food system relates to climate change and the environment and how changes in ecosystems where animals live are driving the circulation of viral spread in real-time. Public health issues are environmental issues and taking a One Health approach to science, is critical to avoid future zoonotic spillovers. Governments should also not fall silent on global commitments and face inward. Instead, they should double down on how the pandemic could foster opportunities to re-engage and collaborate on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, ending hunger and resilient ecosystems and oceans that will require global cooperation.

Glindys Virginia Luciano, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)

Speaker

Glindys Virginia Luciano is an interdisciplinary young scientist and the network and strategic engagement manager at Young Professionals for Agriculture Development (YPARD). Glindys Virginia is driven to be a food systems and climate action leader. She believes the democratic participation of youth is crucial to properly transform food production, access, and consumption patterns in the fight against climate change. Prior to joining YPARD, she was the ELSA subject areas coordinator at the Euroleague for Life Sciences (ELLS), a network focused on supporting young scientists in life sciences. She is also a member of the UNFCCC constituency of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (YOUNGO) agriculture working group. Glindys Virginia is a graduate of Connecticut College (2016) and the Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague (2021) with an MSc in Agri-food systems and Rural

Development with a focus on food processing and quality. Her research focus areas include food safety and quality, sensory food science and meat science.

Title of talk: Having it all: can food be safe, nutritious and sustainable?

Abstract of talk

The aim of this talk is to explore a young person's perspective on the changing interplay between food safety, nutrition and sustainability. Is it possible to have safe, nutritious and sustainable food? Young people are spilling out onto the streets demanding swift action against the effects of climate change. We know that climate change is inextricably connected to sustainable and safe food production. The effects of climate change, compounded with the increase in demand for food, have pushed the environment to its tipping point. Factors such as the loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, etc. have created further challenges for ensuring food safety. With this in mind, our diets, along with food production, are a main contributor to environmental degradation. Young people recognise the importance of diets and their impact on vulnerable communities and the environment. We are therefore demanding more healthy, balanced and sustainable diets. The push for a shift towards plant-based diets relates to health as well as ethical considerations about climate change and animal welfare. These sentiments were echoed at the UNFSS and at COP26. Many young people are adamant that shifting to foods that are less resource-intensive is a step in the right direction. With the increased demand for safe and healthy food products, the goal should also be to improve nutrition, economic and social well-being, and overall food security.

Finally, it is clear that approaching food safety independently from nutrition and sustainability does not work and will not be enough to find solutions to current challenges. In our view, it is possible that this approach will be outpaced quickly by new developments in science, societal expectations and policy targets. As we look towards the future, we ask for governments and institutions to better incorporate nutritional, environmental, social and economic considerations into future food safety assessments, so that they remain relevant and continue to meet new societal expectations.

Frank Yiannas, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Speaker

Frank Yiannas is the Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, a position he assumed in December of 2018. He is the principal advisor to the FDA Commissioner in the development and execution of policies related to food safety,

including implementation of the landmark FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). His leadership role within the Agency covers a broad spectrum of food safety priorities, such as outbreak response, traceback investigations, product recall activities, and supply chain innovation across the full spectrum of FDA-regulated products. Mr. Yiannas is, in effect, the Agency's chief ambassador to reduce food safety risks and achieve high rates of compliance with FDA food safety standards, working to develop innovative collaborations with external partners and stakeholders and effective relationships with government and industry leaders, as well as consumer groups. A renowned food safety expert and author, Mr. Yiannas came to FDA from leadership roles with two industry giants: Walmart and the Walt Disney Company. Through his career, he's been recognized for his role in elevating food safety standards and building effective food safety management systems based on modern science and risk-based prevention principles.

Title of talk: Actions speak loudest: the battle for trust

Jacqueline EW Broerse, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Speaker

Jacqueline Broerse is professor of innovation and communication in the health and life sciences, and director of the Athena Institute at the Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She holds a Master degree in biomedical sciences (cum laude, 1988) and obtained her PhD degree on the development of an interactive approach to include small-scale farmers in research agenda setting processes on agricultural biotechnology. She is a leading researcher in multi-stakeholder knowledge production and (system) innovation for inclusive sustainability and health transformations in the global North, global South, and transnational contexts. She has led several large research and innovation programs (e.g. coordinator H2020 programme FIT4FOOD2030 on living labs for food system transformation). She is currently leading the Erasmus Mundus Joint Degree Program on Transdisciplinary Solutions to Global Health Challenges, and coordinates the new transnational Horizon Europe programme FOODCLIC on integrated evidence-informed food policies to support the transformation to food environments that make healthy and sustainable food available, affordable and attractive to all citizens (including deprived and vulnerable groups) in Europe and Africa. She is also a member of advisory boards at several levels of government in the Netherlands and beyond (e.g. the European Commission's Expert Group on International Platform for Food Systems Science (IPFSS)).

Title of talk: Fighting with facts: the future of science communication**Abstract of talk**

The relation between science and society has become increasingly complex and challenging because of two interrelated issues. First, the boundaries between science and society have become blurred. The blurring of boundaries has resulted in more diverse interactions and interfaces, involving a greater variety of scientific and non-scientific actors. This has provided new opportunities (such as participatory research agendas, citizen science) but has also led to new challenges. The network of connections between science and society is becoming ever more complex, fragmented, heterogeneous and context-specific. Extending the range of actors has extended the range of issues and concerns addressed. Second, digitalisation has transformed the science communication landscape. It has fundamentally changed how scientists and a variety of publics interact and communicate. Moreover, due to fragmentation of the media landscape, the public now often read and watch information about science from sources where the traditional media's editorial oversight and fact checking are lacking. Online, everyone can spread (scientific) information. Facts can be found to support virtually every statement, hence reducing the credibility of scientific facts. It has become relatively easy to disregard scientific evidence as 'just another opinion'. Given the various crises the world is facing today, this is a crucial moment in time. But how can more constructive science-society interfaces be shaped? First of all, we should not fall into the trap of the often-heard plea 'We need to explain things better', which has proven over and over again to be ineffective. The answer does not lie in better one-way communication, but in better listening and more inclusive and meaningful collaboration. Creating new interfaces between science and society is not easy. In this presentation I will argue that a radical shift toward public participation in science, open science and citizen science is required. In this transition process, it is first and foremost a re-constellation of science that is needed, rather than the scientification of citizens. I will illustrate this by discussing the transition from traditional modes of communication on uncertain environmental and public health risks to 'governance-style' modes of interaction, called 'risk governance communication', as well as its facilitators and barriers.

Sarah A Hartley, University of Exeter

Speaker

Sarah Hartley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Exeter Business School where she researches science and technology governance. She is a qualitative social

scientist studying efforts to open up governance to new actors through case studies involving global health, sustainable agriculture and conservation. Current research explores the governance of gene drive technology and she has several projects funded by the British Academy and Wellcome exploring engagement, collaboration and knowledge co-production in gene drive development and risk assessment in Africa, North America, Australia and Europe. She publishes in a wide variety of journals including Environmental Science and Policy, Regulation & Governance, Social Science & Medicine, Science, Malaria Journal, and Journal of European Public Policy. She is Associate Editor of the Journal of Responsible Innovation and has a PhD in Politics and Environmental Studies (University of Toronto).

Title of talk: Together is better: engagement in risk assessment

Abstract of talk

This conference is timely – its focus on ONE reflects a general and growing agreement in society that inclusivity and diversity are important. The ecosystem metaphor emphasises connectivity and relationships, of working together. Such ambitions will require opening up risk assessment to new actors and connections. Yet, opening up risk assessment may be challenging and perhaps even undesirable or difficult to imagine. For example, policies and structures developed following the food safety crises in the 1980s and 90s are in place to insulate European risk assessment from the influence of non-scientists and non-technical experts. For some risk assessors, the scientific robustness of risk assessment may be under threat if it is ‘opened up’. In this talk, I will share my research on efforts to bring inclusivity and diversity to biotechnology risk assessment, including the development of guidelines defining the scope of future risk assessments, the risk assessments conducted by applicants, and the risk assessments conducted by EFSA. Through the case of gene drive technology, I will highlight the commitment of risk assessors and technology developers to opening up risk assessment and reflect of the many ways in which such engagement is being imagined and practised. I will also suggest new ways of thinking about engaging which help to navigate some of the challenges facing efforts to open up this highly technical space to others.

Patrick Wall, University College Dublin

Speaker

Patrick Wall is Professor of Public Health in University College Dublin, Ireland. He is a medical doctor and veterinarian. He was head of Foodborne Disease Surveillance Division in the UK CDC; he was the first CEO of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

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and the second Chairperson of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). He was a member of the oversight food safety committee for the Beijing Olympic games. He is a member of the international scientific advisory committee of the Chinese National Centre for Food Safety and Risk Assessment and a member of the Saudi Arabia Food and Drug Authority's International Risk Assessment Advisory Committee. His research interests include One Health, Food Safety, Lifestyle Related Disease and engaging with consumers to change behavior. He is an external member of the Food Safety Advisory Committee, and also the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee, for Moy Park, one of Europe's leading poultry suppliers. He is the external auditor for the Irish Ministry of Agriculture's one health programs and is the chair of the Ireland's national Campylobacter steering group consisting of integrators, retailers and regulators.

Title of talk: One Health as integrative approach. No more walls: why we must go forward together

Abstract of talk

As food security becomes a major issue globally, it behoves us to look at our food production systems to ensure that they are resilient and able to respond to and cope with ecological, climatic and geopolitical challenges, and threats to public health. One Health has truly come of age, as human health cannot be looked at in isolation from animal and environmental health. The EU Green deal flags many areas that need to be addressed and will require interinstitutional and interdisciplinary work if its lofty ambitions are to be realised. No country can afford to be complacent, since the health of one country's citizens often depends on the activities in another. The need for all stakeholders to share universal standards and risk assessment and management strategies and integrated surveillance and early warning systems is paramount. The health of the environment, where food is produced, underpins entire food safety systems so we require more holistic risk assessment and management strategies. For many zoonotic food-borne diseases and chemical contaminants, the focus of controls is often close to the point of sale to the consumer where interventions and controls earlier in the food chain will deliver greater benefits in terms of feed and food safety. Many of our most disruptive food safety incidents over the past decades have had their origins in contaminated animal feed. An estimated 60% of known infectious diseases and up to 75% of new or emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic in origin and many of these are transmitted to humans via contaminated food or water.

There has been a revolution in next generation sequencing, metagenomics and bioinformatics. Moreover, we now have far greater capabilities to monitor the

emergence and evolution of microbes, better understand webs of transmission and achieve more accurate source attribution. Forensic microbiology is complimenting epidemiological investigation and adopting a One Health approach is demonstrating the utility of agencies and disciplines working together.

Addressing the threats at the animal-human-environment interface requires interagency coordination and collaboration. Ensuring access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food has to be high on the agenda of all policy makers. Unsafe food undermines food and nutritional security, human development and the health and stability of economies.

Rose O' Donovan, AGRA FACTS

Moderator

Rose O'Donovan has been Editor-in-chief of the Brussels-based AGRA FACTS since March 2010, having previously served as Deputy Editor on the leading agricultural publication for nearly three years. AGRA FACTS covers a range of topics including the ongoing reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), international trade, environmental policy, animal health & welfare and human health. Prior to working as a journalist, she dealt with international relations on the EU satellite navigation programme at the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) for two years. Following the completion of a Master of Science at University College Cork (Ireland) & several years living & working across France, Rose moved to Brussels in 2004 to work as an intern in the Cabinet of former European Parliament President, Pat Cox. It was during the internship, at a time when the European Union was undergoing a process of enlargement, that she decided to stay in Brussels on a more permanent basis. Hailing from a farming background near Ballydehob in West Cork, Rose has a keen interest in the evolution of Irish & European agricultural & trade policy and regularly appears as a moderator in the Brussels conference circuit. Since taking up the post at AGRA FACTS, she is also a contributor on agri-related matters on BBC1 & RTE radio programmes.

Claire Bury, European Commission

Panellist

Claire Bury is currently Deputy Director-General in DG Health and Food Safety with responsibility for food safety and sustainability. She is also a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. She was previously Deputy Director-General for the Digital Single Market in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology and

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Director of Modernisation of the Single Market in Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. Before that, she was Head of Unit for Company Law, Corporate Governance and Financial Crime in Directorate General Internal Market and Services, and Deputy Head of Cabinet to Internal Market Commissioners Charlie McCreevy and Frits Bolkestein. An English barrister by training, she worked in the Commission's Legal Service and, before coming to Brussels, in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Jytte Guteland, European Parliament

Panellist

Jytte Guteland is a Swedish Social Democrat and Member of the European Parliament since 2014. From 2019 to 2022, she was the S&D coordinator in the ENVI committee where she is now a Member. Jytte is also a substitute in the AFET committee and was a member of the ANIT committee, working to improve animal's rights during transportation. In 2020-2021, she was the rapporteur and lead European Parliament negotiator for the European Climate Law where the EU set its target of climate neutrality by 2050. She is currently (and was previously) shadow rapporteur for the EU Emissions Trading System revision.

In 2018, Jytte was the rapporteur of the revision on the implementation of the Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides. She has co-hosted European Parliament's pollinator week multiple times and has a strong passion for "barn och bin" - children and bees. She is also the S&D standing rapporteur on endocrine disruptors. Jytte is an economist by training and used to be the President of the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League.

Monique Goyens, The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

Panellist

As Director General of BEUC, Monique represents 46 independent national consumer associations in 32 European countries, acting as a strong consumer voice in Brussels, ensuring that consumer interests are given weight in the development of policies and raising the visibility and effectiveness of the consumer movement through lobbying EU institutions and media contacts.

As a consumer expert and advocate, and on behalf of BEUC, Monique is a member of the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance and of the Euro Retail Payments Board. She is a member of the European Commission's Consumer Policy Advisory Group, High-Level Roundtable on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and Structured Dialogue on Security of Medicines Supply. She is also a member of the Advisory

Group on Noncommunicable Diseases of WHO- Region Europe. Previously, she was a member of the expert group on "Online Disinformation" (2018), the expert group on "trade agreement" (2018-2019), the EU High Level Forum for the Capital Market Union (2020) and sub-group on Artificial Intelligence, Connected Products and other new Challenges in Product Safety (2020). She was also Vice-Chair of the European Advisory Board of the Open Society Foundations (2017-2020).

In her capacity as BEUC Director General, Monique is currently EU Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) a network of EU and US consumer organisations, and she also represents BEUC at Consumers International, the international consumer organisation. Apart from championing consumers' rights, Monique's passions/challenges are her family & cooking for friends - including delicious veggie meals.

Dirk Jacobs, FoodDrinkEurope

Panellist

Dirk Jacobs is Director General of FoodDrinkEurope, the organisation of the European food and drink industry, one of Europe's largest manufacturing sectors in terms of turnover, employment and value added. Mr Jacobs is a member of various EU platforms and regularly engages in global multilateral bodies such as the United Nations, WTO, FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, OECD and FAO. He is Chair of a multi-stakeholder Task Force which led the development of an EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices, the first deliverable of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy. Mr Jacobs has long-standing professional experience covering various roles in international and EU public/political affairs and strategic communications. Previously, he served as FoodDrinkEurope's Deputy Director General and headed its department for consumer information, nutrition and health. Mr Jacobs, a Dutch national, holds a Master of Science (MSc) in International Business Administration at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, studied international economics in Milan, Italy, and has obtained a post-graduate MBA degree in European Business studies in Brussels, Belgium.

Milka Sokolović, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Panellist

As Director General of EPHA, the European Public Health Alliance, Dr Milka Sokolovic supports the organisation's relentless work to improve health, and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe. She started her career in Belgrade, in the IMGGE, studying the expression and function of human SOX genes. The majority of her 15

academic years, however, took place at the University of Amsterdam, where she studied the intermediary metabolism of starvation and obesity, and taught subjects like medical biochemistry, DNA technology, metabolism and genomics. She then moved to Brussels, to EUFIC, where for eight years she led the Department of Food & Health Science, translating the complexity of science into human language, to help people make sense and use of it. For five years Milka was also the Director of the Advanced Programme of the ENLP, the European Nutrition Leadership Platform, supporting food and nutrition professionals in making a lasting difference in the European public health landscape. Milka holds a degree in Biology from the University of Belgrade, and a PhD in Medicine from the University of Amsterdam.

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