

NGOs slam Commission plans to leave out harvest losses from food waste definition

Planned regulation also fails to classify food waste by destination

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News

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<https://iegpolicy.agribusinessintelligence.informa.com/PL218427/NGOs-slam-Commission-plans-to-leave-out-harvest-losses-from-food-waste-definition>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the IEG Policy website. The article title is "NGOs slam Commission plans to leave out harvest losses from food waste definition" with a subtitle "Planned regulation also fails to classify food waste by destination". The author is Sara Lewis, and the article is dated 23 Nov 2018. The page includes a search bar, navigation menu, and various interactive elements like "ASK THE ANALYST", "EMAIL", "PRINT", "BOOKMARK", and "SHARE". There is also an advertisement for "F.O. Licht Malasses and Sugar Beet Pulp Markets: The Next Ten Years" and a "Related Content" section with a thumbnail image of food waste. The browser's address bar shows the URL: https://iegpolicy.agribusinessintelligence.informa.com/PL218427/NGOs-slam-Commission-plans-to-leave-out-harvest-losses-from-food-waste-definition. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 28/11/2018 and the time as 10:52.

A coalition of 22 non-governmental organisations have joined forces to write to EU Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis protesting that a draft delegated act establishing a common EU methodology for food waste measurement leaves out harvest food waste.



NGOs write to EU Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis Harvest food waste accounts for between 11% and 36% of overall food waste in Europe, complain the 22* NGOs in the November 22 letter to Andriukaitis.

Leaving it out means that the future delegated act to the EU's waste framework directive (2018/851) adopted in May 2018, "will not allow a full and accurate measurement" of food waste levels in the member states, the NGOs argue.

The letter argues that "it is essential to include harvest food waste in the methodology. Measurement will help reducing food waste but will also help EU farmers. Indeed, farmers are the ones currently bearing the cost and the burden of harvest food waste, which is often the result of Unfair Trading Practices and cosmetic outgrading by retailers."

Destination by hierarchy

Moreover, the NGOs complain that the delegated act does not incorporate the requirement in the framework directive for member states to report food waste separately by destination based on a food waste hierarchy prioritising human use.

"Food waste have very different destinations with very different purposes going from food redistribution to compost production. Each of these destinations clearly do not bear the same value, thus, it is of the utmost importance to incentivise progress to a better use of food waste," the NGOs write.

The letter points as an example to the hierarchy that the World Resources Institute proposed in its Guidance Note on sustainable development goal (SDG) 12.3 on halving food waste by 2030. The WRI hierarchy notably includes food going to animal feed and redistribution.

The Commission is expected to ask member states to clear the draft delegated act in a standing committee in mid-December before sending it to the Council and European Parliament for a two-month scrutiny period. During the scrutiny period, either institution could veto the proposed delegated act, but crucially, not amend it.

“We cannot completely avoid food waste, however, when food waste is generated, we should at least create incentive for it to be used in the best way possible. This is why we believe that member states should be required to report food waste separately by destination, using a clear food hierarchy,”
Floriana Cimmarusti, Secretary General, of one signatory, Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE), told IEG Policy.

** The 22 NGOs that signed the letter are: Bird Life, Bond Better Leef voor de toekomst Milieu (BBL), Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., Disco Soupe, Ecologistas en Accion, Estonian Green Movement, European Environmental Bureau, FoodWin, France Nature Environnement, Friends of the Earth Europe, Fruta Feia, Institute for Sustainable Development Slovenia, Oikos – Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, Olio Pro Terra Foundation, SAFE-Safe Food Advocacy Europe, Sustain: The Alliance For Better Food and Farming, This Is Rubbish, VšĮ "Žiedinė ekonomika", Zachran jidlo (Save Food), ZERO – Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável and Zero waste Europe.*