

# European Food SCP Round Table



European  
Commission

## *Working Group 3 “Continuous Environmental Improvement”*

### Co-chairs

>> **Christian Pallière,**  
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>> **Harald Schönberger,**  
**European Commission –**

**JRC/IPTS**



### **Preliminary Report on Continuous Environmental Improvement**

Prepared by the European Food SCP  
Round Table

Working Group 3 on  
“Continuous Environmental Improvement”

8 October 2012

# European Food SCP Round Table – WG 3

## Outline

### Report of Working Group 3 (Contin. Env. Improv.)

- Organisation/mandate
- Meetings
- Structure of the report
- Content of the report
- Outlook / lessons learnt

# European Food SCP Round Table – WG 3

## Mandate -1

- Identification and prioritisation of major environmental challenges
- Mapping of existing and emerging voluntary industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Identification of priority areas for continuous environmental improvement
- Identification of priority areas for targeted sustainability R&D and eco-innovation

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## Mandate -2

- **Dissemination of best practice**
- **Identification of opportunities and tools for eco-innovation**
- **Identification of barriers**
- **Linking identified R&D and eco-innovation requirements with the EU research agenda for food**

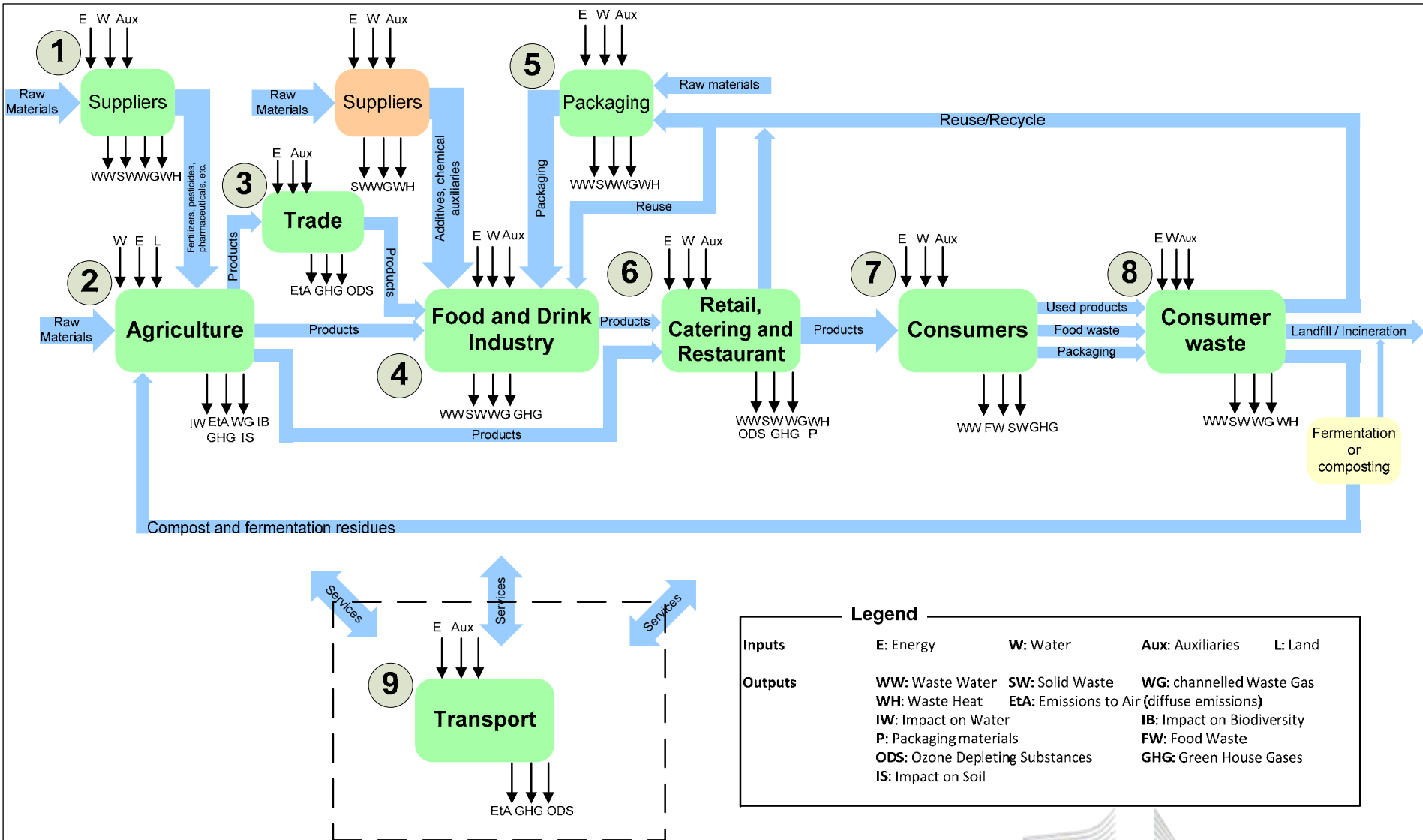
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## 9 Constituencies → 9 Chapters

- Suppliers to the agricultural sector
- Farmers and agri-cooperatives
- Agricultural trade
- Food and drink industries
- Packaging value chain
- Retailers, catering and restaurants
- Consumers
- End-of-life (consumer waste)
- Transport & logistics operators

# European Food SCP Round Table – WG 3

## The constituency approach



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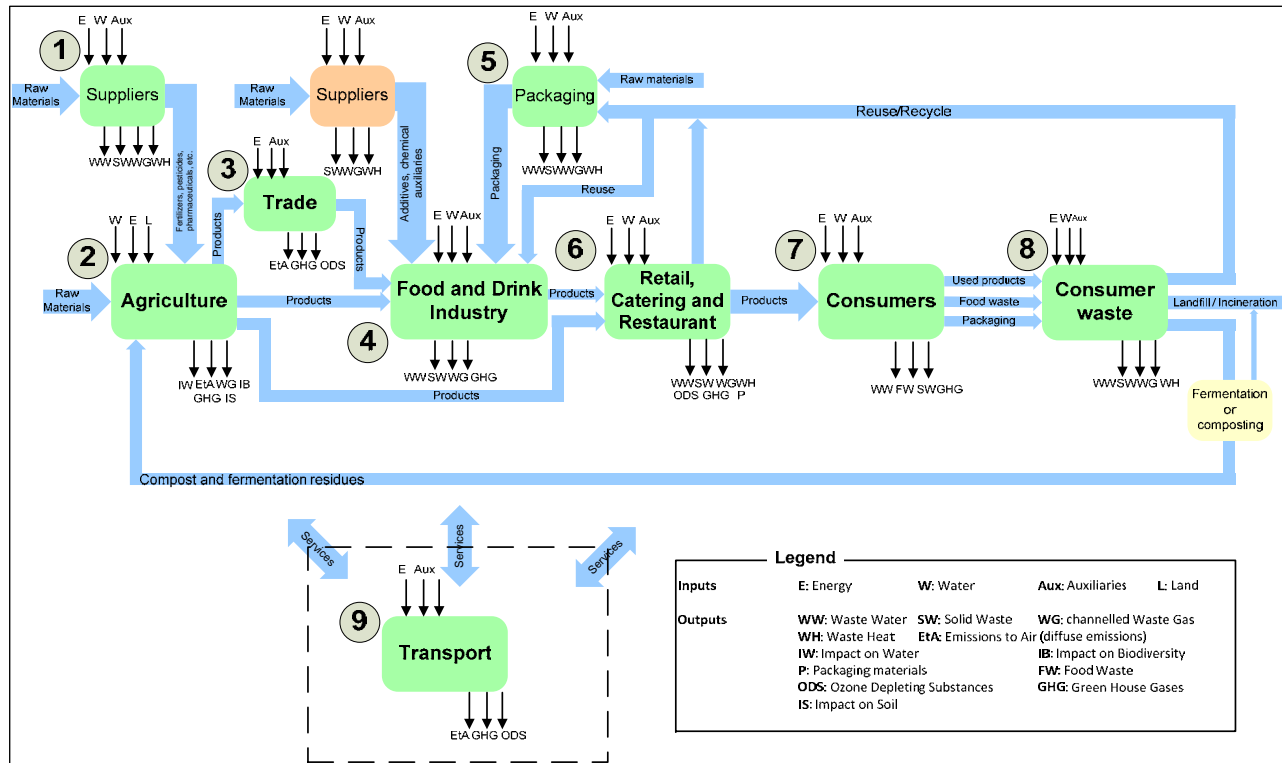
## 14 Meetings

- **Kick-off meeting: 8 October 2009**
- **5 meetings in 2010**
- **4 meetings in 2011**
- **4 meetings in 2012 and 1 telephone conference**

→ Most participants from the suppliers, farmer sector, food and drink industry and the packaging sector

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Basic structure follows the constituency approach





# European Food SCP Round Table – WG 3

## Structure of the chapters follows the mandate

- Sector description
- Environmental challenges (water, air, GHG, soil, biodiversity, resource depletion, land use)
- Existing actions to address the challenges
- Key obstacles
- Recommendations

plus: executive summary with a horizontal approach and overarching recommendations and a product example

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## Content of the report

1. Contributions from the constituenc. (for consumers, consumer waste and transport & logistics, no contributions ==>JRC/IPTS input)
2. Detailedness is different (less technical and more technical chap.)
3. 3 text boxes on issues no agreement could be achieved (GMO, biofuels, food from organic farming)

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## Content of the report

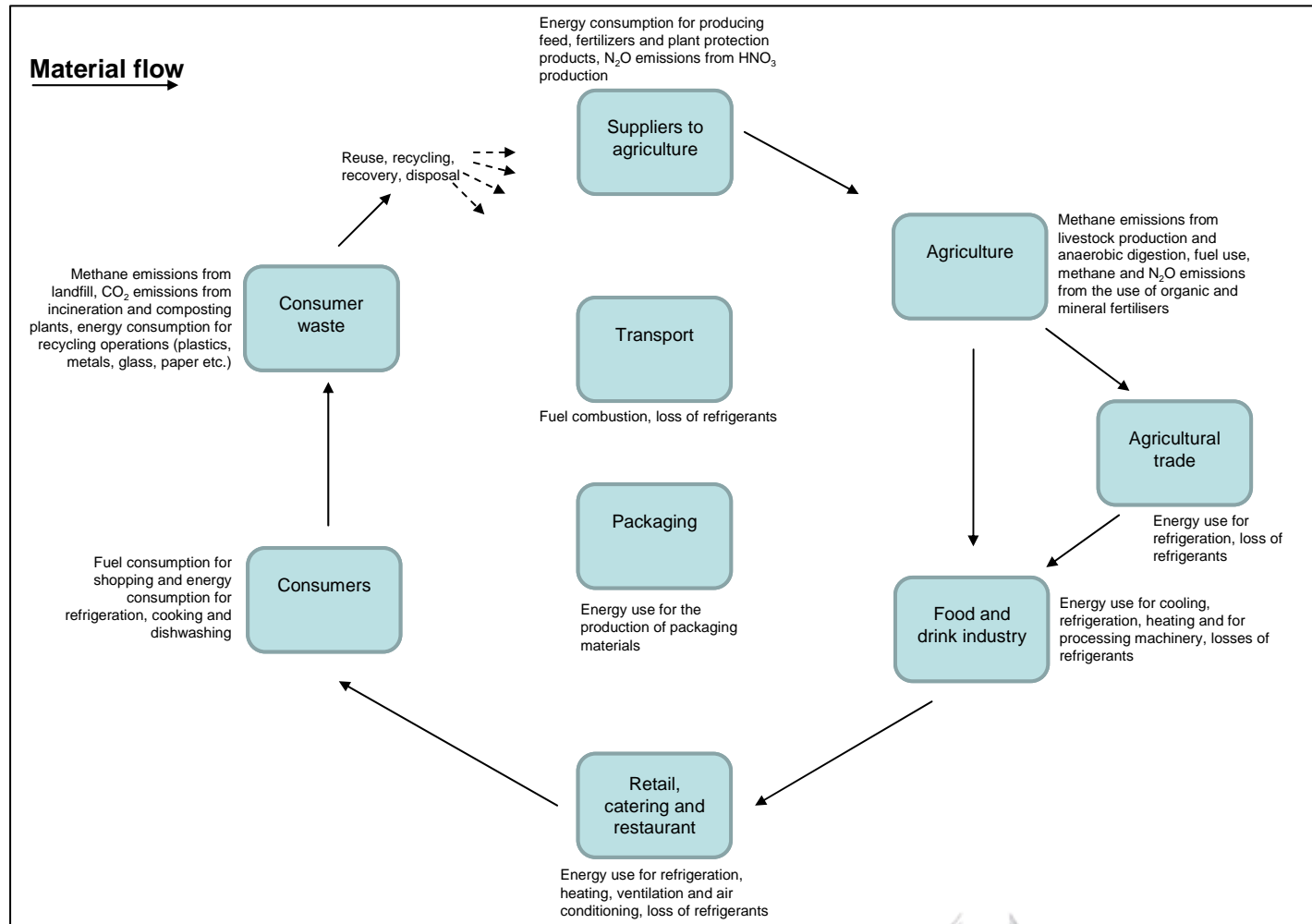
### Executive summary

**Integrated view on the food value chain for the different environmental aspects (water consumption and pollution, air pollution, GHG emissions, soil quality, biodiversity, resource depletion, land use)**

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## Content of the report - executive summary

### Example GHG emissions



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## Content of the report

### Recommendations

- **More collaboration of the actors of the food value chain**
- **Improved promotion of best practice**
- **Environmentally sustainable sourcing**
- **Raise the awareness of consumers**
- **Waste problem needs to be tackled (new WG)**
- **Policy instruments shall be science-based**
- **More efforts in research and innovation**

## Outlook / lessons learnt - 1

- The report is comprehensive and one of the very few covering the whole food value chain considering the relevant environmental aspects. It provides added value concerning continuous environmental improvement. However, due to the constituency approach, the different chapters do not have the same technical level and the integrated approach could not be applied in more depth.

## Outlook / lessons learnt -2

- The technical discussion was sometimes interfered with positions (“lobbying”) → slow progress,  
and some conclusions could not be drawn, such as on healthy and more sustainable diet.

## Outlook / lessons learnt - 3

- Many stakeholders were chronically work-overloaded and could not invest much time  
→ slow progress
- Financial resources were too limited (all works, such as data evaluation, text drafting, formatting etc.) had to be done by the WG → slow progress; the secretariat was very helpful but had to concentrate on organisation aspects.



# Contact details

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