

European Food SCP Round Table

Mandate of Working Group 3 on Continuous Environmental Improvement



Updated 3 December 2010

Overall objective:

Promote and communicate continuous voluntary environmental sustainability initiatives at all stages of the various food and drink chains addressing their key environmental challenges.

Mandate for 2009/first Plenary 2010:

- Identification and prioritisation of major environmental challenges along the various stages of the different food and drink chains, including consumption
- Mapping of existing and emerging voluntary industry and multi-stakeholder initiatives and standards in these areas at national, EU and international level
- Identification of priority areas for continuous environmental improvement, considering the respective responsibilities of the various players along the food value chain
- Identification of priority areas for targeted sustainability R&D and eco-innovation in these fields

Mandate for 2010:

- Facilitation of concrete sustainability measures across the agro-food sector, on a continuous basis, at all levels:
 - Dissemination of best environmental practice and resource-efficient technologies in all stages of the food chain, also considering options to reduce food waste
 - Identification of opportunities and tools for eco-innovation and technology and knowledge transfer to agro-food companies, including in particular SMEs
 - Identification of barriers to an increased uptake of eco-efficient technologies and best practices in the agro-food chain, in particular in SMEs, and identification of means to overcome these barriers;
 - Promoting identified R&D needs and eco-innovation requirements under the EU research agenda under the 7th Framework Programme (7FP) and European Technology Platforms (ETPs) relevant for food and drink production and consumption;
- Communication on progress (website creation in 2009, updates and newsletters in 2010)
- By the end of 2010, the WG shall deliver a progress report to the other WGs and the Steering Committee, including an outline of achieved deliverables and outstanding challenges within its working stream for 2011.

NOTE: The progress report delivered by the end of 2010 is structured by constituency. However, the executive summary shall reflect a holistic thinking and integrated approach.

As proposed by the Co-Chairs and agreed by the Food SCP Steering Committee, one or two examples will be developed as from September 2010 and for the end of 2010 to illustrate the additional interest of using an LCA product category approach along the whole food chain to identify areas of possible improvement and to facilitate dissemination of best environmental practices.

Mandate for 2011:

1. Tasks initially planned for 2010 that have not been completed will be achieved during first half of 2011, in particular relating to two essential tasks, the dissemination of current best environmental practices and the recommendations for innovation and research:

- Facilitation of concrete sustainability measures across the agro-food sector on a continuous basis, at all levels:
 - Dissemination of best environmental practice and resource-efficient technologies at all stages of the food chain, also considering options to reduce food waste
 - Identification of opportunities and tools for eco-innovation and technology and knowledge transfer to agro-food companies, including in particular SMEs
 - Promoting identified R&D needs and eco-innovation requirements under the EU research agenda under the 7th Framework Programme (7FP) and European Technology Platforms (ETPs) relevant for food and drink production and consumption;
- Using a product category approach to develop examples, in order to demonstrate interest in identifying areas of possible improvement and facilitating the dissemination of best environmental practices along the food chain.

The WG3 mandate, as defined at the start of the Food SCP RT, is expected to be completed by the middle of 2011.

2. As a complement to the initial WG3 mandate:

- From the beginning of 2011:
 - Coordination/collaboration is envisaged with WG1 and WG2, and will be organized when relevant.
 - Due consideration shall be given to possible input from WG4
 - An Action Plan is being developed to address recommendations identified in the report and, when relevant, the policy needs.

3. Finally, by the end of 2011, the WG3 shall deliver a Status Report to the other WGs and the Steering Committee. This will include an analysis of whether WG3 has achieved its potential contribution to the Food SCP RT or may still contribute to new phases.

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