



Slow Food®

OUR MANIFESTO FOR THE NEW EU MANDATE

WE CALL ON OUR POLICYMAKERS TO:



PLACE FOOD AT THE TOP OF THE POLITICAL AGENDA

Food is essential to life, and agriculture is one of the pillars of European societies. **Good, clean and fair food systems are key for economic, social and environmental well-being.** Building on the binding 2050 climate commitments agreed by EU leaders, added to the policy coherence and industry engagement it has unlocked, it is now time for EU institutions to show strong political will, and adopt an evidence-based, long-term vision for food policies, with a focus on enhancing prospects in farmer's livelihoods, health and environmental protection, animal welfare and social equity. To guarantee that future generations of citizens and farmers have access to quality food and land, **food must be central in the upcoming mandate.**



TAKE A 'FOOD SYSTEMS' APPROACH

EU food policies have been made in silos and have concentrated largely on the production side for too long, while disregarding the precarity in our food environments. This has resulted in policy incoherence. The EU must **urgently adopt a comprehensive and consistent policy approach to gather all food system sectors and players, from production to consumption,** within a coherent framework tracing the **path to sustainability for the whole EU food system.** Citizens deserve policies that boost the **production of healthy food and its availability in public canteens,** support the development of **short supply chains,** ensure **labelling and advertisements promote sustainable food options,** and make **better diets affordable to all.**



ENSURE THAT AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES SUPPORT A JUST AND INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

The CAP needs to undergo a reform to regain legitimacy as the second largest portion of the EU budget. It is essential to ensure a **'public money for public goods'** approach. This involves changing the system of payment per farm hectare and redirecting subsidies towards **organic and agroecological farming practices as well as to the farmers who implement them.** Only in this way can the CAP address today's challenges: climate crisis mitigation and adaptation, EU enlargement, generational renewal and dignified living conditions for farmers of all ages, cutting red tape, and finally, prioritizing effective infrastructural recovery in rural areas.



TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS BY PROMOTING FOOD BIODIVERSITY

The biodiversity of European food and cultures are key in tackling the climate crisis, as well as a unique economic, environmental, and socio-cultural asset. The loss of food biodiversity has reduced the resilience of ecosystems. **Climate action must be integrated within a coherent framework legislation on food systems.** Policies on farming, synthetic pesticides, soil, water, and pollution must ensure proper support, financial and educational, to farmers to transition away from practices that harm food biodiversity. Strict regulations on new genomic techniques and the prohibition of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) must be upheld to **safeguard biodiversity.**



MAKE EUROPEAN TRADE POLICIES WORK TO THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND FOOD SECURITY

The EU's trade policy affects international trade dynamics – and it must pave the way to better food systems globally. This means fundamentally rethinking the bloc's trade policy, moving away from the current focus on ever-increasing imports and exports which are driving environmental degradation, human rights violations and animal suffering, as well as disrupting local food markets. A first step to trade justice is to put an end to double standards. **Mirror measures, a way to ensure that imported and exported goods are equivalent to EU production standards, should be integrated into EU legislation** in order to reflect our commitments to sustainability, human rights, and economic wellbeing in both domestic and international supply chains. Trade must not be seen as an end itself, but as **a tool to create fair and healthy food systems that support local communities.**



AGROECOLOGY PROMOTES A SUSTAINABLE AND FAIR TRANSITION

Globally, our food systems are destroying more value than they create. In fact, the hidden costs of food are so elevated, that the net benefits of achieving a food system transformation are estimated between 5 to 10 trillion USD a year, equivalent to between 4 and 8 percent of global GDP in 2020 (FSEC – Global Policy Report 2023).

Paving the way for a transition, **Slow Food promotes agroecology, a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems.** With high confidence, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of 2022 states that agroecology supports food security, health and well-being, biodiversity and ecosystem services.

More than just a set of agricultural practices, **agroecology can play an important role in changing social relationships, empowering farmers, and privileging short supply chains.** Within the foundations of agroecology, healthier and prosperous food environments can thrive, not only by increasing demand for better food choices but by making healthy and tasty food accessible to all Europeans.

A first step towards agroecology in Europe could be taken by introducing a **Common Food Policy**, particularly by bringing forth the long-awaited proposal for a framework legislation on sustainable food systems.

ABOUT SLOW FOOD

We are a global grassroots movement acting together to ensure good, clean and fair food for all. We cultivate a global network of local communities who defend cultural and biological diversity, promote food education and advocate for more just and equitable food policies.

We are a diverse movement supporting the idea of a world based on solidarity where diversity and tolerance are a strength. We stand against discrimination based on person's origin, skin color, religion, sexual identity and orientation, abilities or any other characteristic.