

Call to keep to F2F timetable

15/04/2020 [AGRAFACTS](#)

A coalition of 40 civil society organisations has written to the Commission calling on policy-makers to ensure that the Farm to Fork Strategy is published on time (April 29) – now highly unlikely [see above] - stressing that the COVID-19 crisis has strengthened the case for a Common Food Policy.

In a 2-page letter* (dated April 14), they restate their support for ambitious F2F & Biodiversity Strategies. Publishing the two documents at the same time, would “articulate a strong, united & coherent environmental, climate, public health & social agenda, setting a clear vision for the CAP & the food system,” they say. The groups add that COVID-19 has “strikingly brought to light some of the dysfunctions of our current globalised & unsustainable food systems, based on long & specialised chains,” complaining of “a strong dependency on foreign & migrant workers in poor working conditions, while small-scale producers face difficulties in accessing local markets.” They also highlight “the reduced resilience of people with pre-existing health conditions, including diet-related, to cope with infection; the link between the increased emergence of zoonoses & intensive animal farming; & the lack of regard for other species which has consequences worldwide.”

In contrast “the exponential surge in local demand & alternative distribution channels prove the resilience of these food & farming models,” they continue. The pandemic “significantly highlights the urgent need for a Common Food Policy that is forward-looking, precautionary, resilient, social & health orientated, with an ambitious F2F Strategy,” the groups claim, adding that “farmers, consumers & civil society are anxious about the many uncertainties that lie ahead.”

They want the Commission “to provide guidance & a clear perspective of the road forward, meeting citizens’ expectations across Europe,” by publishing the F2F by the end of April. The letter is addressed to Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans, & Commissioners Stella Kyriakides (Health), Janusz Wojciechowski (Agriculture) & Virginijus Sinkevičius (Environment), with copies to the Directors-General of DGs SANTE, AGRI, ENVI & MARE.

*www.slowfood.com/sloueuropa/wp-content/uploads/Joint-letter-EU-FPC_COVID_F2F.docx.pdf;

Signatories include Slow Food, Greenpeace, the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC), Compassion in World Farming, Friends of the Earth Europe, Four Paws, IFOAM EU, BirdLife, Corporate Europe Observatory, Eurogroup for Animals, Arche Noah, Zero Waste Europe, SAFE, EFFAT, Feed Back, Mighty, ClientEarth, ARC2020, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Coordination Via Campesina, Agroecology Europe, Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Pesticide Action Network (PAN), Urgenci, EPHA, Die AgroNauten, actalliance eu, Actionaid, Open Society (European Policy Institute), CNCD 11.11.11, euronatur, Eurocoop, HEAL & WWF;