

## Joint open letter calling on President von der Leyen to confirm support for the completion of the framework for Sustainable Food Systems (FSFS) during this mandate

12th September 2023

Dear President von der Leyen,

Last week the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) issued a key technical [report](#) that stated that the window to reach our climate goals is “rapidly closing.” Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, warning of dire consequences for our current trajectory, called for “[greater ambition and accelerating action](#)” from global leaders.

As you know, we cannot achieve our net zero goals without systems transformation across all sectors, especially agriculture as it contributes [more than a third](#) of all GHG emissions. The report specifically states that “demand-side measures such as shifting to sustainable healthy diets, reducing food loss and waste, and intensifying sustainable agriculture without further land expansion can reduce emissions, halt deforestation and free up land for reforestation and ecosystem restoration.”

Europe cannot address the climate crisis without addressing our food systems. We call upon you to make this clear in your State of the Union Letter of Intent and to double down on the critical commitments made for this mandate by the European Commission regarding the legislative [framework for a Sustainable Food Systems \(FSFS\)](#), a linchpin to the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the European Green Deal.

We represent leading European start- and scale-ups racing to bring new, sustainable and complementary food to consumers to help meet the EU's climate, health, nutrition, and animal welfare goals. And contribute to a competitive, resilient and diversified food system supporting the Strategic Autonomy of Europe. However, the FSFS is critical to creating the enabling conditions (regulatory pathways, incentives & subsidies, measurable targets, etc) necessary for a just and profitable transition for both conventional and innovative agri-food sectors.

We encourage you to be wary of a vocal minority that are pushing false dichotomies around transforming our food systems. The Commission doesn't have to choose between meeting climate goals and supporting rural parts of the EU, and it certainly doesn't have to choose between conventionally produced foods from farmers and new complementary products like ours. Both can and must coexist in a climate-resilient food system.

We can only tackle the immense challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss with a multifaceted, inclusive and science-based approach; updating how we currently make food and layering in complementary and novel foods made in innovative, safe and sustainable ways. We consider it a moral and existential obligation for the European Commission to maintain its course and to achieve the goals of the Farm to Fork Strategy and European Green Deal. This is the message we hope to hear in your State of the Union address on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely,



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