

# Delivering on EU Food Safety: Promoting a Safe and Sustainable Agri-Food Chain



**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de  
l'Europe



# Delivering on EU Food Safety: Promoting a Safe and Sustainable Agri-Food Chain

## Overview

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), deaths of an estimated 2 million people annually are linked to unsafe food. Food containing harmful bacteria, parasites, viruses and chemicals is also responsible for more than 200 diseases ranging from infectious diseases to some cancers. Having access to sufficient safe food is therefore an essential requirement for human health. However, globalisation and changes in consumer habits have triggered growing consumer demand for a wider variety of foods, resulting in an increasingly complex and longer global food chain.

In the European Union, the agri-food industry is the second largest economic sector in the EU, employing over 48 million people, and is worth around €750 billion a year to the European economy. But it is also in the EU that more than 310,000 human cases of bacterial foodborne disease were reported in 2013 - which resulted in 322 deaths - as well as 85,000 cases of salmonellosis reported each year, at a cost of up to €3 billion. Hence, ensuring that EU citizens consume safe and nutritious foods produced from healthy plants and animals is a key public health and economic priority. The European Union's policy to safeguard health along the whole 'agro-food chain' has aimed to supervise every step of the food production process from farming to consumption by preventing food contamination and promoting food hygiene and information, plant and animal health as well as welfare.

Of course, ensuring food security in a highly globalised world has proved to be much more complicated than expected, with new challenges constantly arising: changes in food production, distribution and consumption, climate change as well as new pathogens and antimicrobial resistance, all pose challenges to national food safety systems. Increases in travel and globalised trade have also raised the chances of contamination internationally and, as a result, the need to strengthen food safety systems in and between all countries is becoming more and more evident.

In response, the European Commission has created a common financial framework covering the whole food chain in the period 2014–2020 with a budget of €1.9 billion. The framework will support EU Member States' efforts to contribute to a high level of food safety, whilst also simplifying the regulatory environment and increasing the cooperation between administrations tasked with official controls. Other steps have been taken by EU officials with the issuing of the Food Information to Consumers (FIC) Regulation, which has already come into force. The new rules aim to make food labelling easier for consumers to understand. Food operators will therefore be required to highlight allergens in the list of ingredients as well as provide origin labelling of unprocessed meat.

Maintaining the highest level of consumer protection means assigning clear responsibilities and increasing the collaboration between all actors, EU institutions, control authorities of the Member States and stakeholders. Up to now, considerable progress has been made but there is still work to be done. As the food supply chain is increasingly more complex, food safety risks have also broadened due to improper manufacturing technologies, contamination along the processing chain, plant/animal diseases, novel food or improper re-use of food waste. This timely symposium is an invaluable opportunity for experts, policy makers, NGOs and other key stakeholders to discuss the latest European regulatory policies on food safety and food labelling that aim to promote a sustainable agri-food chain. The symposium will also allow delegates to assess the current and future challenges faced and to share best practices and initiatives from across Europe.

**“Over the past 50 years, Europe has built a solid record of delivering results. The EU food chain has delivered on many challenges – including food security, high food safety standard and improved animal welfare. However, Europe, and the world, face critical challenges to ensure food safety and nutrition in the decades to come: How will the 9 billion people living on planet Earth in the year 2050 have access to a sufficient supply of safe nutritious food?”**

Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety  
July 2015

## Venue and Accommodation

Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe,  
Rue Marche aux Herbes, 110  
B-1000  
Brussels



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Evaluate the current EU food safety policy framework
- ✓ Debate on future challenges and emerging risks within the European food system
- ✓ Examine the efficiency of controls along the agri-food chain at EU level
- ✓ Explore innovative solutions to ensure food safety in Europe and provide recommendations for future initiatives

## Who Should Attend?

- Health Professionals
- Public Health Authorities
- National Governmental Organisations
- Local Governmental Organisations
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Pharmaceutical Industries
- Veterinary Services Providers
- Social Services
- Health Promotion Advisers
- Medical Associations
- Trade Unions
- Employers' Organisations
- Public Health Unions
- Health Research Institutes
- International Centres for Health Protection
- Health Networks
- Allergic Patient Associations
- Charitable Foundations
- Associations of Schools of Public Health
- Health Forums
- Legal Health Professionals
- Academics and Researchers
- Agriculture Producers

# Delivering on EU Food Safety: Promoting a Safe and Sustainable Agri-Food Chain

## Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Assessing the Current EU Food Safety Policy Framework**
- Introducing the EU Foresight Project – "Delivering on Food Safety and Nutrition in 2050"
  - Ensuring the Global Sustainability of the European Food System
  - Exploring the Main Challenges to Risk Assessment in EU Food Safety Policies
  - Recommendations for Future Policy Action
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Evaluating EU Food Labelling and Food Traceability Standards**
- Discussing the EU Food Information to Consumers Regulation Implementation
  - Mandatory Origin Labelling vs. Voluntary Origin Labelling: Assessing Impact and Utility
  - Promoting Efficient Food Traceability Standards for Food and Feed Products
  - Past and Ongoing Initiatives - Lessons Learned and Recommendations
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Targeting Safety and Innovation in the Food Chain**
- Assessing Emerging Biological and Chemical Food Safety Risks
  - Promoting Safe and Innovative Food Manufacturing Processes
  - Reducing Food Waste and Valorising the Re-Use of By-Products
  - Sharing Innovators' Best Practice and Challenges
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Ensuring Effective Food Controls and Consumers Protection**
- Preventing Food Crises through Better Coordination and Cooperation: Sharing Information on Cases of Food Fraud
  - Defining Responsibilities and Roles of Food Business Operators
  - Reviewing the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)
  - Guaranteeing Accessibility and Transparency of Information for Consumers Whilst Reducing Red Tape for Producers, Distributors and Processors
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

*\* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice \**

## Event Details

- Date:** Tuesday 17th November 2015  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe



## Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Beate Kettlitz**, Director Food Policy, Science and R&D, FoodDrinkEurope

## Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe: Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth  
*24th September 2015*
- ✓ Young People and Sexual Health: Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe  
*21st October 2015*
- ✓ Smart Cities: Supporting an Innovative and Sustainable Development of Urban Areas  
*27th October 2015*
- ✓ Addressing Europe's Drug Problem: Combating Drug Trafficking and Substance Misuse  
*28th October 2015*

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact us on +44 (0) 20 3137 8630  
or email [info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)