

CCGP32 Side Event

on Food Safety and SPS Measures in Africa

Experience of food safety governance in the EU

**Side-event on Africa SPS measures
February 10th, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Nathalie Chaze– Director
Directorate General for HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
European Commission



“Like air and water, food is fundamental to life itself. We need it to survive and thrive.

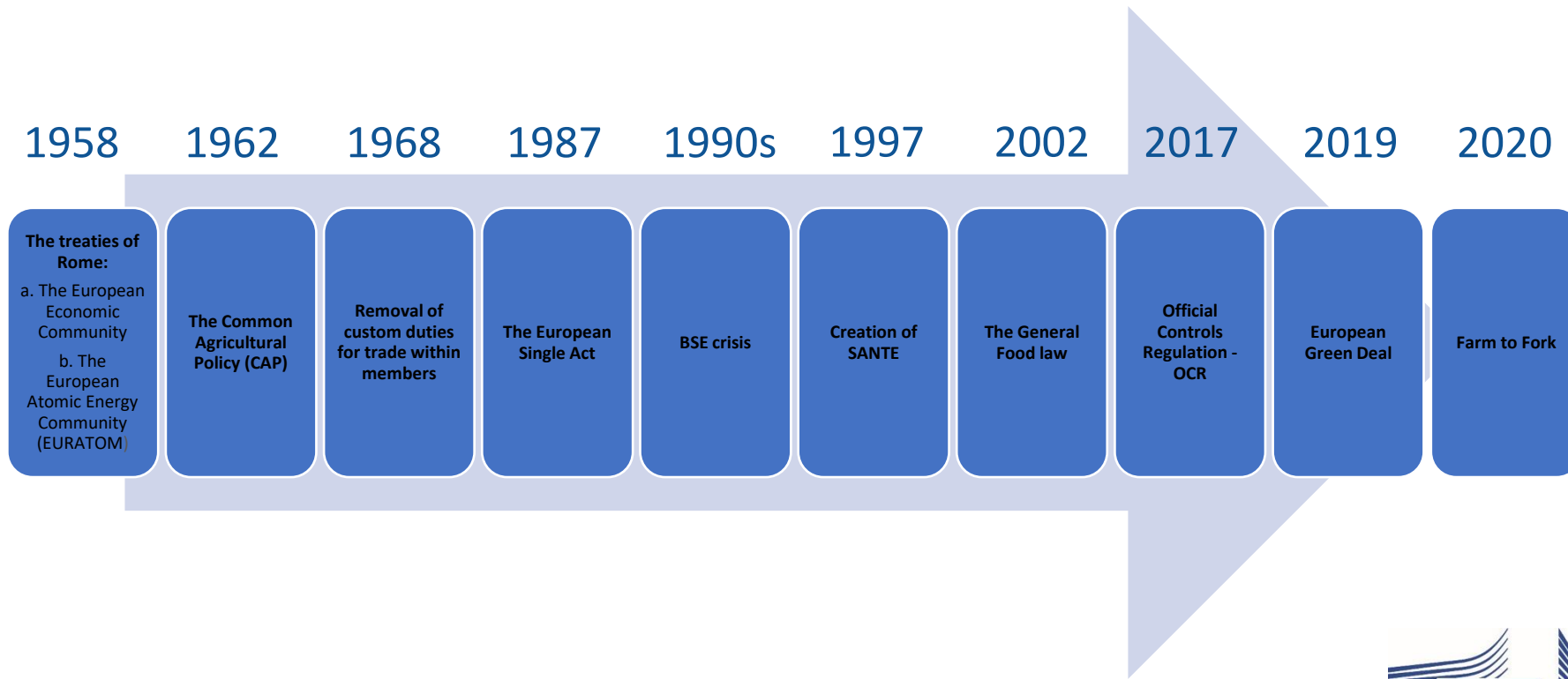
But food is so much more. It’s a source of enjoyment. It’s an expression of culture and faith. It’s an art form. And it brings families, friends and communities together.

Food is an essential part of what it means to be human. Which is why unsafe food is so unacceptable”.

**WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Opening Speech at WHO/FAO/AU International Food Safety
Conference**



Gradual process to full harmonisation



The General Food Law: an integrated approach of the food chain



The General Food Law (GFL) (**Regulation (EC) No 178/2002**) is the cornerstone of the EU regulatory framework since it **covers the entire agri-food sector**, i.e. 'from farm to fork', and all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed.



Regulations are **immediately applicable** in all the Member States and, therefore, **result in uniform law**

Objective: High level of protection of human, animal and plant health

- How farmers produce food
- How plants are grown, and how pesticides are used
- How animals are fed, looked after, and transported
- How food is processed, packaged, and sold
- How food is labelled for consumers



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Main Principles:



1. Application of the **risk analysis process** consisting of three interconnected components:

- **Risk assessment**
- **Risk management**
- **and Risk communication**

This process is implemented through the establishment of an **independent agency** responsible for scientific advice and support: the **European Food Safety Authority** (EFSA).

2. Take into account international standards (Codex)

3. For situations of scientific uncertainty is possible to use the **precautionary principle**

4. Moreover, it creates the main procedures and tools for the management of emergencies and crises as well as the **Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed** (RASFF)

The EU system: who does what?

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- ✓ Risk management with Member States
- ✓ Supervision of Member States
- ✓ Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF)
- ✓ If serious risk to human health, EC can:
 - suspend the placing on the market of the food/feed in question
 - lay down special conditions for the food/feed in question
 - adopt any other appropriate interim measure



Food and feed operators

- ✓ Primary responsible to ensure compliance with safety requirements
- ✓ Traceability systems
- ✓ To withdraw products that do not satisfy with safety requirements

EFSA



- ✓ Risk assessment: a robust scientific basis provided by EFSA, an independent agency dedicated to food safety

Member States

- ✓ To enforce rules
- ✓ To monitor and verify that the relevant requirements of food law are fulfilled by food and feed business operators at all stages



A legislation in constant evolution

Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429)

- Date of application: 21 April 2016

Plant Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031)

- Date of application: 14 December 2019

Official Control Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/625)

- Date of application: 14 december 2019

New Regulation on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain

- Date of application: 27 March 2021

Proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems

- Indicative time: 2023

Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security

- Indicative time: Q4 2021

The Farm to Fork Strategy

- At the heart of the [European Green Deal](#)
- Aims to:



- Contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals



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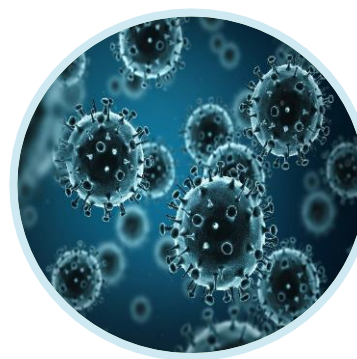
2030 EU wide targets for sustainable food production



Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of **chemical pesticides** and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides**



Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20 %



Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50%



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and a significant increase in **organic aquaculture**



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Concluding remarks

Food Safety is an **essential** element of public health

- WHA Resolution 73.5 on strengthening food safety and new FAO strategy on food safety
- In the EU, sustained efforts to improve food safety policies
- For Africa, EU support to the 2019-2024 African Union SPS Policy Framework

Food Systems: sustainability requires a **holistic approach**

- UNFSS summit: a unique opportunity
- In the EU: Green deal, farm to fork strategy, Biodiversity strategy, Cancer plan

Are you ready for change?

- We need more than safety and integrate sustainability in food systems
- <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-196220>