



EUROPEAN VEGETARIAN UNION

PLANT-BASED POLITICS: THE 2024 EU ELECTION GUIDE

A voter's guide to plant-based stances
ahead of the EU elections



Acknowledgement

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed in the creation of this report

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e.V.

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The European Vegetarian Union (EVU) is the umbrella association of 46 civil society organisations in 28 countries. The EVU represents the voice of the growing number of European consumers shifting towards a more plant-based diet. As such, we advocate for a favourable food environment that makes it easier to choose more plant-based foods and dishes.

Editors

Rafael Pinto (EVU Policy Manager)

All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this report. Comprehensive data collection methods, thorough analysis, and rigorous verification processes were employed to provide reliable and up-to-date findings. Despite these efforts, any errors or omissions that may exist are unintentional, and we welcome any corrections or suggestions for improvement.

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Design

Alex Schiphorst (EVU Communications Advisor)

Foreword

As we face the growing challenges of climate change, the transition towards plant-based solutions emerges as a vital and central strategy to mitigate its effects. Livestock production, in particular, is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and biodiversity loss. Shifting towards plant-based diets can dramatically reduce the environmental footprint of our food systems, conserve natural resources, and improve public health. This worrying context adds urgency to the upcoming EU elections, when newly elected politicians will have a critical impact on how we approach the future.

In this comparative report, we have aimed to provide a factual comparison of the positions taken by Europarties and national political parties. Our goal is not to endorse any specific party, but to equip voters, policymakers and stakeholders with clear, comparative insights into how these parties are addressing and supporting the promotion of plant-based alternatives and sustainable food systems.

The questions we asked political parties reflect in large part the policy recommendations and actionable proposals that we highlighted in our Plant-Based Manifesto.

We therefore hope that this report serves as a valuable tool for informed decision-making and the fostering of deeper policy discussions.



Felix Hnat
President, European
Vegetarian Union

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The Plant-Based Manifesto

METHODOLOGY

Between February and May 2024, the European Vegetarian Union (EVU) contacted all registered and recognised Europarties by email with a questionnaire composed of 16 questions based on the policy recommendations of the Plant-Based Manifesto.

Regarding national parties' answers, EVU members across Europe contacted their own national parties, within the same time frame, with the EVU form or a translated version. In some instances, questions were slightly adjusted to better reflect national members' priorities. These cases are highlighted in each country's report section.

For each EU Member State, EVU members took the decision to either contact only parties with parliamentary representation or all registered parties, according to their previous experience. With the exception of Denmark, questionnaires were addressed to political parties as a whole and not individual candidates.

For a better understanding of this report, the questions were grouped into four thematic sections

- **Environment and Health**
- **Policy shifts and CAP**
- **Promotion and development of plant-based alternatives**
- **Taxation and financial incentives**

For each question, the parties were given three possible answers: **Yes, No, No position**, with the affirmative being aligned with EVU's Plant-Based Manifesto. The two questions on VAT rates also had the option of selecting "**Not applicable**", since VAT rates are a national competence, and despite agreeing to lower VAT for plant-based products, some parties consider it not applicable on an EU scale. The questionnaire offered the opportunity for further written explanations on all questions.

Complementary to the questionnaire, and with a view to better assess priorities and the vision of the Europarties, the EVU also analysed the available election manifestos of all Europarties. An objective summary of each, related to food policy issues, is included in this report.

Limitations

We have identified three major limitations in the report results.

The first is the "answer bias", with more progressive parties having higher response rates. Although this also demonstrates parties' interests in the issues at hand, when looking at the results of the report as a whole, data should be assessed carefully.

The second limitation pertains to the nature of the questions asked, with several parties, especially Europarties, not having a set position or even past discussions on specific plant-based policy issues. Although this also represents a political vision in itself, it has led to a significant amount of answers marked as “No position”.

The third limitation involves the challenges of European integration, where disagreements arise not over the policy recommendations made by the EVU, but because some parties believe these decisions should be made at the national level

We advise the reader of this report to carefully examine the responses as well as the explanations given by the parties on each subject.

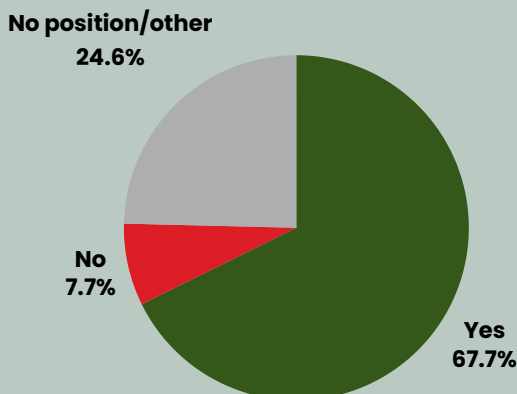
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the date of publishing, the EVU collected answers from all registered and recognised Europarties with the exception of the European Democratic Party (EDP), the European People's Party (EPP), the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) and the Identity and Democracy Party (ID) from which we did not receive any answers. We have included a summary of the elections manifestos of all parties, except the ID which, to date, has not published an EU elections Manifesto.

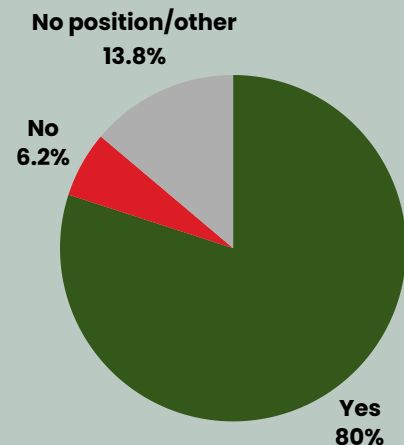
The report includes answers from 57 National Parties including countries such as Austria (6), Belgium (10), Czechia (9), Denmark (11), France (8), Germany (7), Portugal (4) Poland (1) and Spain (1). Although not included in time for the first publication of the report, answers from the Netherlands and Portugal are still expected. Further countries may be included prior to election day. The results presented below will be adjusted accordingly until the elections.

I. Environment and Health

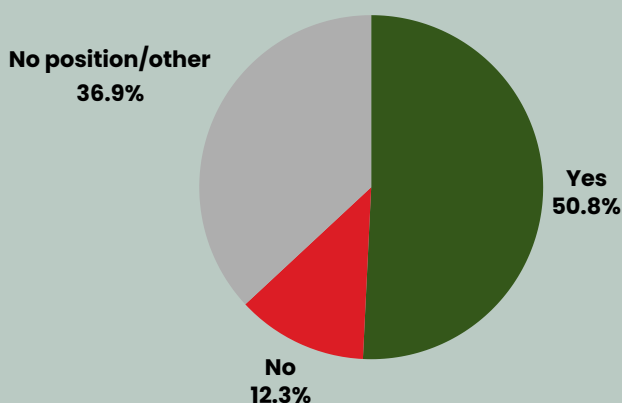
a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



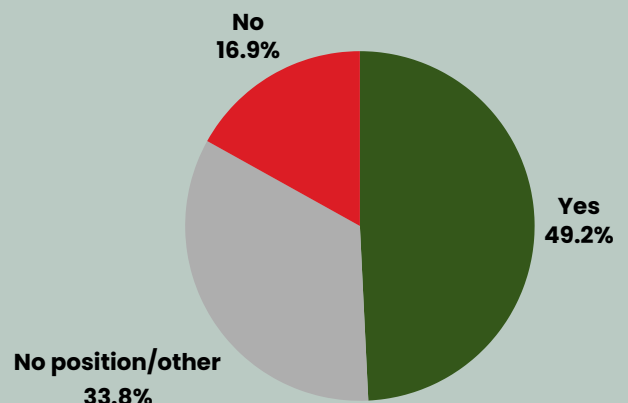
b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

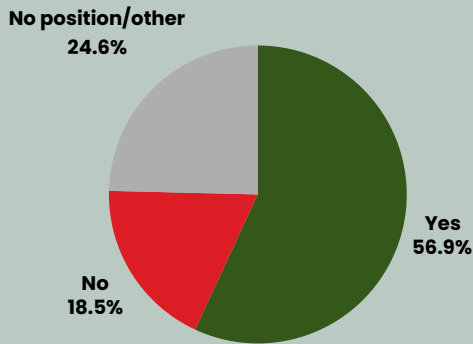


d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

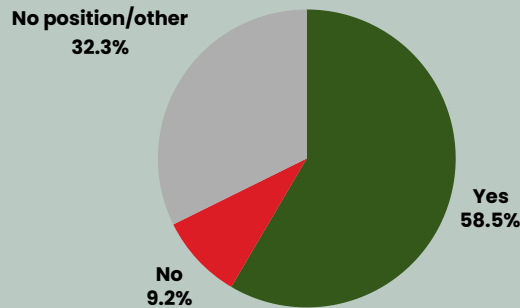


II. Policy shifts and CAP

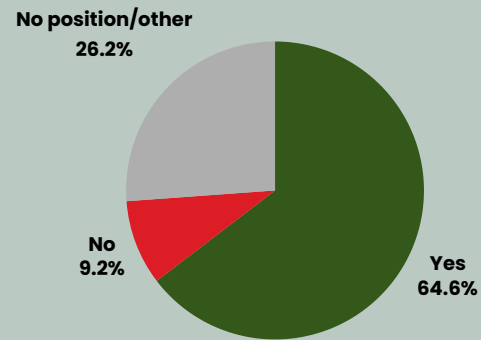
e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programs to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

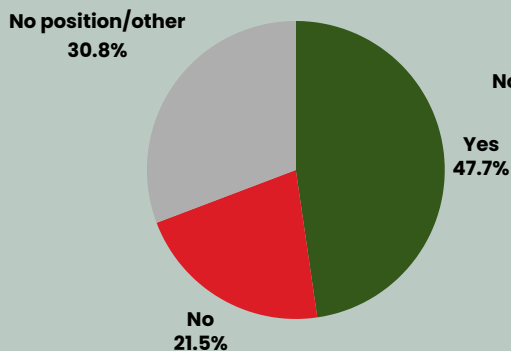


g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

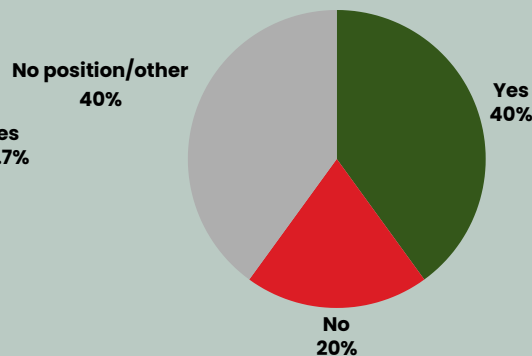


II. Promotion and development of plant-based alternatives

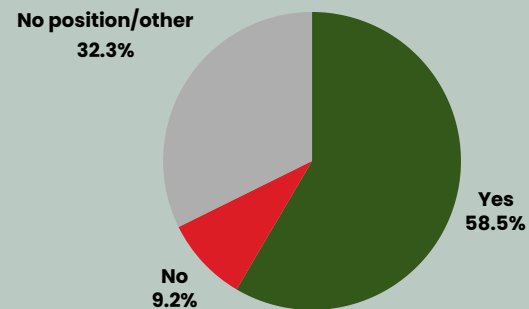
h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



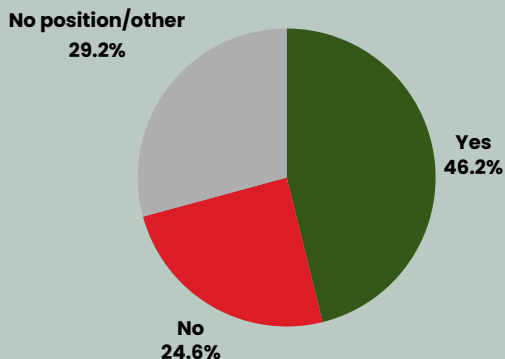
i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



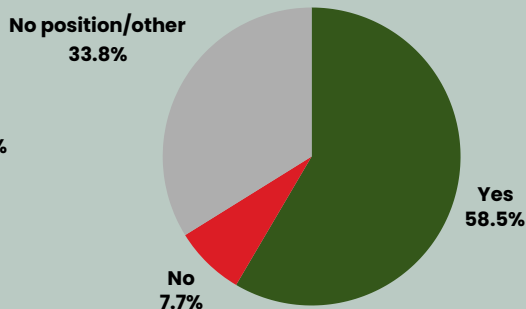
j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins? (Such as the one developed in Denmark)



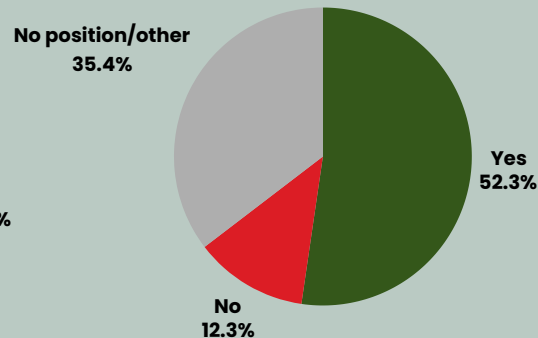
k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

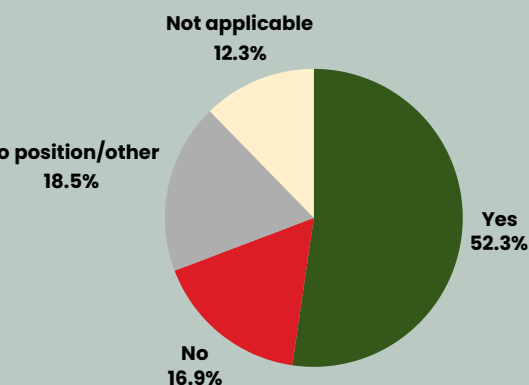


m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?

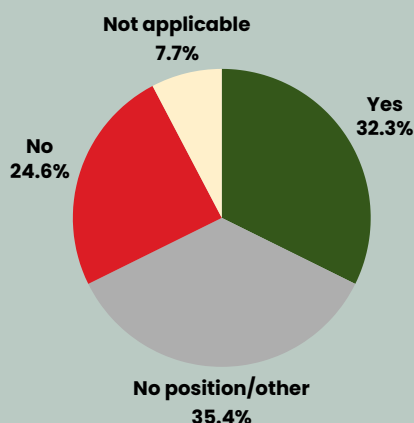


IV. Taxation and financial incentives

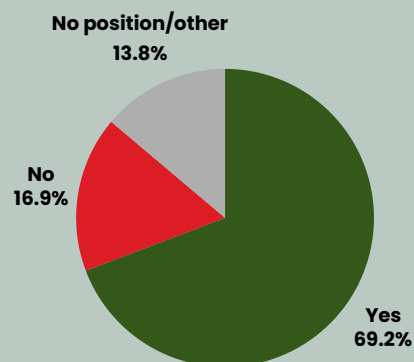
n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?

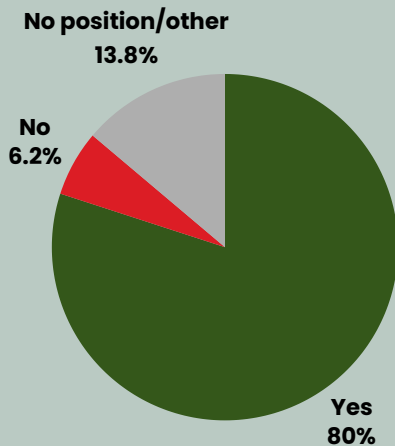


Conclusions

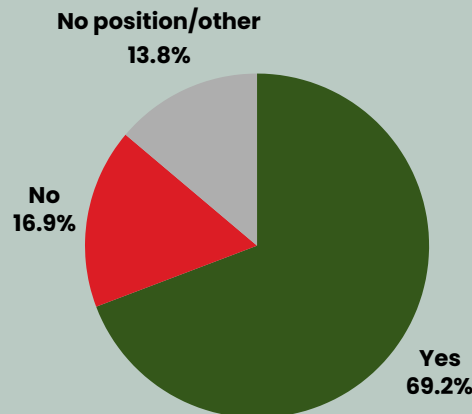
The policy recommendation with the highest political support is the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact of the CAP, followed by the application of the polluter-pays principle to agriculture (within an ETS or carbon tax system) and binding targets to improve human health in the CAP. Overall changes in the CAP to further increase environmental and health ambitions were also highly supported.

Policies with the most political support

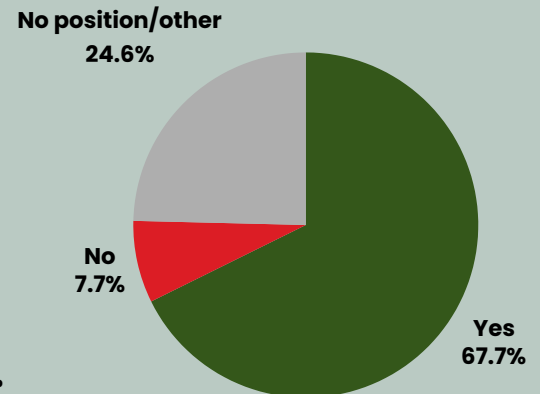
b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



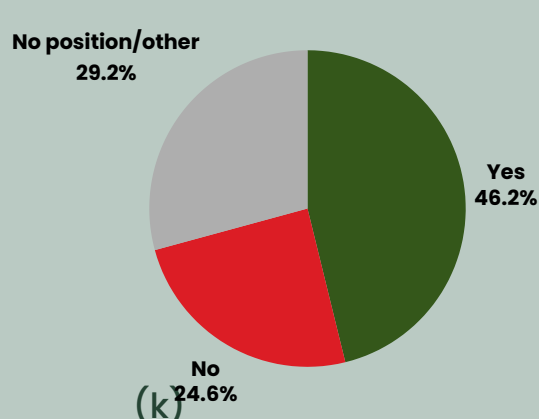
a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



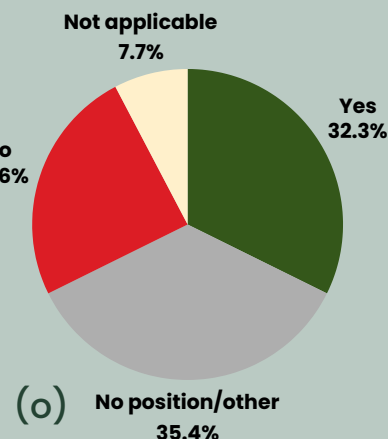
The overall rejection of the policy recommendations was relatively low, with the highest 'no' percentage to be found in the question of mandatory inclusion of plant-based meals in all public canteens, at 24,6%. Nevertheless, among those who ticked 'no', two parties signalled that the only issue was with EU competence, not policy. At the same percentage level was the introduction of lower VAT rates for plant-based alternatives compared to animal-based products, with 24,6% of parties responding negatively. Lastly, the implementation of binding EU targets for the consumption of plant-based protein is not supported by 21,5% of respondents, mostly because of its binding nature.

Policies with lower political support

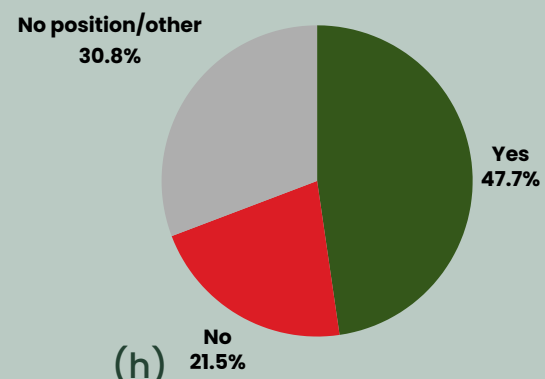
k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



From these results we may conclude that the **majority of parties that answered our survey support the policy recommendations of the Plant-Based Manifesto, with rejection rates remaining low.** In fact, of the 16 questions in the report, only 5 (o, h, i, d, k) show approval rates below 50%. Of these 4 still have approval rates above 40% (h, c, d, k). However, percentages for “no position” are significant, crossing the 30% threshold in 9 out of 16 questions (o, f, h, j, c, d, l, m) and matching the affirmative responses in question i). This demonstrates the need for further internal, political discussions about the issues at stake.

Other key highlights from topics discussed over the last mandate include a low rejection rate of 12,3% for the use of denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk” and only 7,7% of the parties opposing the inclusion of plant-based milk within the EU School Scheme.

Overall, the National Parties with **100% alignment** were Parti Animaliste and Parti Equitable in France as well as Partido Animalista con el Medio Ambiente (PCMA) in Spain. The Portuguese parties People–Animals–Nature and Volt Portugal also show the same level of alignment marking only the question on equal VAT as not applicable, since it is already equal in the country. Then Zeleni in Czechia and the Danish Red-Green Alliance state to not have a position in just one recommendation, agreeing with all the others. The Danish SF, Alternativet and Social Liberal Party follow together with Die Grünen in Austria, Die Linke in Germany, Les Ecologistes in France and the Parti Socialiste in Belgium as parties with two answers marked no position and the rest positive.

The Europarty perspective

As for Europarties in particular, **the policy recommendation with the most political support is the application of the polluter-pays principle to agriculture, within an ETS or carbon tax system (question p)**, with all answering parties, except the European Left, responding affirmatively. The former has no position on the topic yet. Following in **high support is a shift in CAP goals from primarily economic to a more environmental and health-related policy (question g)**, with only ECPM opposing the policy and ALDE having no position.



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



With Europarties, the prevalence of answers with “no position” was higher, but the overall rejection of policies remains low, with the ECPM being the only respondent to signal a ‘no’ position in 7 out of 16 questions. **No other party has objected to any policy**, opting for the “no position” option. The recommendation where parties most chose this option is the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales (question d) with only Volt answering affirmatively and the rest stating they have no position. This was closely followed by the mandatory inclusion of plant-based meals in public canteens with Volt and the European Green Party agreeing, and the other stating no position.

Overall, the highest alignment with Europarties was found in Volt (16 affirmative answers) and the European Green Party (13 affirmative answers and 3 with no position). The lowest alignment was found with the ECPM (1 affirmative, 7 negative and 8 no position) and ALDE (2 affirmative and 14 no position).

EUROPARTIES AND PLANT-BASED SOLUTIONS

I. Manifestos

What have the various Europarties said about food systems and sustainability in their EU elections 2024 manifestos? This section of the report delves into the published manifestos to better understand each party's overall approach to environmental policies. While not all manifestos may directly address plant-based solutions, their policy proposals and stances provide a useful perspective on their readiness to support sustainable food-system transformations.





The European Left manifesto calls for a social transformation towards integral ecology, upholding the Paris climate targets and calling for more ambition in the Green Deal.

The Manifesto calls for a shift in the Common Agricultural Policy

How? By gradually abolishing the system of allocating funds according to area and redirecting them towards **environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture**.

"Sustainable agriculture should contribute to the attractiveness of rural areas, while labour-intensive agriculture must directly benefit those who work the land, promoting a model of small, sustainable farms and healthy food in which products have a short commercial circuit"

- It proposes to establish an agro-ecological policy model for the CAP based on:
- environmentally sustainable agriculture
- ensuring fair incomes for farmers
- providing quality food, soil protection, and food sovereignty
- mitigating climate change



"The EU needs to strengthen the plant-based protein sector and encourage a transition towards more plant-based diets, building on policy proposals including the Plant-Based Treaty".

The European Green Party's manifesto lays out 12 priorities, of which 4 impact food systems:




- 🌱 A STRONGER GREEN AND SOCIAL DEAL
- 🌱 ENSURING NATURE RESTORATION
- 🌱 HEALTHY, PESTICIDE-FREE FOOD AT FAIR PRICES
- 🌱 ENDING FACTORY FARMS AND LONG-DISTANCE, LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT.

The Manifesto also calls for a shift in the Common Agricultural Policy

Notably, it should support changes in what we eat, how we produce food, and where we get it from.

It calls for fairer remuneration, food security and mitigating unfair competition from third countries.

And a shift “away from subsidies for industrial agriculture based on pesticides, monocultures, and animal suffering and towards massive investment into organic farming and agroecological production”



They call for 1/3 of the EU budget to be dedicated to sustainable food systems that improve soil quality, cut emissions, and reduce food waste while addressing the economic situation of farmers.



The manifesto also calls for a stronger Common Agricultural Policy for young farmers, women and small-scale farmers.

The PES lays out broad policy lines for “environment, sustainable agriculture, rural development, biodiversity, and people’s health” and calls for the need to protect the diversity of species and animal welfare



Despite referring to people's health, the manifesto doesn't mention consumption side measures, diet change or plant-based foods.

On the Green Deal, the PES manifesto affirms that it "*is also a fight to improve the lives of farmers*" and that farmers must be further supported to reach sustainable production.



The liberals are calling for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with the aim of lifting bureaucratic burdens for farmers.

Their manifesto states the need to incentivise the adoption of sustainable practices and tools such as crop rotation, biochar to reduce carbon leakage and precision farming as well as shifting the main purpose of the CAP to compensating farmers for collective goods.

ALDE also calls for new rules for genetically-engineered crops and investment in breakthrough technologies.



Lastly, the manifesto states that "We are committed to supporting and providing opportunities for consumers and farmers to adapt to the sustainable transition while reducing our agricultural sector's climate impact" and that "adopting sustainable agriculture and food system is essential for our well-being and to give farmers and fishers - whether small or big - a long-term perspective".



The European Democratic Party wants to encourage healthy habits through public health campaigns and initiatives.

The manifesto also stand for water-efficient agricultural practices, investment in modern irrigation infrastructure, and establishing regulatory mechanisms to avoid waste or depletion of water resources.

Finally, it calls for a specific Commissioner for Fisheries.

On agricultural practices, it calls for significant public and private investment in areas such as innovation, digitisation, education and training as well as the development of advanced agricultural technologies such as precision farming, the use of sensors, artificial intelligence and robotics

The Volt Manifesto calls for the restoration of biodiversity by setting binding European and national targets, supporting nature restoration projects for land and water, and protecting indigenous and pollinating insects.

Volt also published a **joint electoral programme**

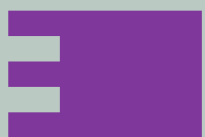
Rebalancing the Common Agricultural Policy to favour products that are not emission-intensive like animal sourced foods



Providing incentives for the reduction of animals farmed (such as higher taxes), whilst limiting meat imports and adjusting meat demand with concurrent policies.

Furthermore, it calls for the adoption of the Planetary Health Diet, the development of a EU Plant-Based Action Plan and the use of public procurement as a tool to increase plant-based consumption.

Creating an agricultural green transition fund to enable farmers to get low-interest loans and state liability for adaptation to the green transition.



European
Free
Alliance

The manifesto upholds the targets of the Green Deal.

It states that farmers need regulatory clarity, and the time and trust to adapt their businesses to sustainable models. Being against top-down policies, EFA calls for a more active input and support of farming communities as well as rewarding good practices. It also calls for more flexibility while supporting farmers to adopt sustainable practices and the promotion of local markets.



The Manifesto calls for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, in order to strengthen the principle of subsidiarity. In it's view, the EU should set food security and quality as targets to but policies should be developed at other governance levels.

The ECPM, highlights the role of fisheries in contributing to food security, wanting to repeal the bans on bans the discarding of unwanted bycatch, to "better balance the three pillars of sustainability".



The EPP manifesto highlights the strategic importance of sectors such as farming and fisheries and states that climate protection, biodiversity and sustainable landscape conservation can be achieved only with and not against farmers

The Manifesto also calls for a stronger economic pillar in the next Common Agricultural Policy

+ Develop a European Resilience Scoreboard to better prevent natural disasters and make regions, cities and villages more resilient in agriculture and food production

+ Develop a moon shot programme for precision agriculture, integrated pest management, closing the nutrients cycle, and the use of robotics



In its manifesto, the ECR stands to **"reject unfettered green ideology"**, calling for a review of the CAP and the Farm2Fork Strategy. The party states it is committed to reduce bureaucracy, increase efficiency, enhance food security and adopt initiatives against unfair trade practices.



No common manifesto published

EUROPARTIES AND PLANT-BASED SOLUTIONS

II. Questionnaire results

In this section of our report, we take stock of the responses the different Europarties gave (or didn't give) to a series of targeted questions designed to assess their positions on advancing plant-based and environmentally friendly food systems. These questions encompass a range of issues, from taxation and subsidies to research, innovation, and regulatory shifts aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and dietary practices within the EU.

The responses offer a revealing look into how each party prioritises sustainability in food production, their willingness to support legislative changes, and their recognition of plant-based diets as a solution to environmental challenges. This analysis provides a comprehensive overview that aims to inform voters about where each party stands on these critical issues.

LEGEND



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER



CLARIFICATION
GIVEN



Party of the European Left



European Green Party



Party of European Socialists



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party



European Democratic Party



Volt Europa



European Free Alliance



European People's Party



European Christian Political Party



European Conservatives and Reformists Party



Identity and Democracy

I. Environment & Health



a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



II. Policy shifts & subsidies



e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



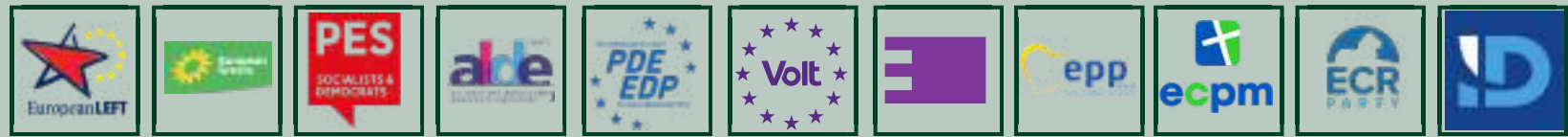
f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



III. Promotion and development of plant-based alternatives



h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER



CLARIFICATION
GIVEN

IV. Taxation and financial incentives



n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Yes, we support targets for the reduction of synthetic pesticides and increasing the share of agricultural area dedicated to organic farming. Human health and protecting the climate and environment go hand in hand.



PES supports the need to safeguard food security by ensuring the resilience and sustainability of food production and consumption, restoring nature, and ensuring the affordability of healthy food, including organic food – as adopted in the PES Malaga.



Generally speaking we would be in favour of targets for improving health, but we do not have concrete targets. Our priorities are to support the stability and wellbeing of agriculture-based communities in the transition.



The CAP reform should aim to lift bureaucratic burdens for farmers and supporting a sustainable food production with respect for biodiversity and animal welfare. It must streamline the distribution of existing funds and incentivise the adoption of sustainable practices and tools such as crop rotation, biochar to reduce carbon leakage and precision farming. The main purpose of the future CAP should be to compensate farmers for these collective goods that the market does not take into account, and which we expect them to provide.

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Our manifesto calls for a Common Food and Agricultural Policy that conditions EU agricultural funding on social and environmental criteria to provide quality jobs and increase food security. This means that one third of the EU budget will be dedicated to sustainable food systems that improve soil quality, cut emissions, and reduce food waste, while addressing the economic situation of farmers and reducing the negative impact our agricultural system has on developing countries. Healthy food also means pesticide-free food. We must reduce the use of chemical pesticides to save ecosystems, keep soil healthy and protect human health. We will fight for a 50% reduction in pesticide use by 2030.



PES calls to strengthen the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to ensure that EU agricultural policy contributes to climate transition and increased biodiversity to secure sustainable, long-term food production within the EU, as adopted in the PES Malaga.



We seek a reform of the CAP to promote pollution-free small-size farms, where farmers will be rewarded for making good and sustainable use of their land. We want Europe's rural strategy to include a strong focus on the conservation of nature, biodiversity, and the distinctive landscapes of Europe's territories.

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



Yes, producing one tenth of the EU's emissions, using far too much precious water, degrading soil and driving ecosystem collapse, a transition in the agricultural sector is essential to meet climate targets and to protect biodiversity. Increasing the proportion of plant-based food we consume is an important part of that.



PES supports the creation of a favourable food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets that benefit consumers health and quality of life, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.



While we recognise that plant-based diets can help in achieving climate targets, we do not have an official position on this as a party.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



PES supports the creation of a favourable food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets that benefit consumers health and quality of life, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.



While we would welcome this, we do not believe it should be the subject of a European-level regulation or directive. Rather, it is up to local authorities and/or retailers to decide.



Volt supports restricting the use of EU marketing subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy to promote the consumption of foods which, according to nutritional and environmental science, we should be increasing the intake of. Furthermore, we support the adaption of market mechanisms for better access and affordability of plant-based proteins along the food chain, creating a level playing field for these foods to compete in the market. Also, we want to rebalance the Common Agricultural Policy to favour the production of products that are not emission-intensive like animal-sourced foods.



Clarifications

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



The one third of the EU budget we spend on agriculture must be directed to sustainable food systems that improve soil quality, cut emissions, and reduce food waste, while addressing the economic situation of farmers and reducing the negative impact our agricultural system has on developing countries. The EU needs to strengthen the plant-based protein sector and encourage a transition towards more plant-based diets, building on policy proposals including the Plant-Based Treaty.



PES supports the CAP must also increasingly facilitate investment support to improve the resilience and accelerate the green transformation of farms, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.



We support a reform of the CAP to promote the interests of small-scale farmers over that of large agribusiness. As part of that reform, we support a general movement towards promoting low-emission farming methods, including a lower focus on livestock. However, we do not want to put small-scale livestock farmers at a disadvantage.



The distribution of existing funds from CAP must be streamlined and incentivise the adoption of sustainable practices and tools such as crop rotation, biochar to reduce carbon leakage and precision farming.

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



We believe that the EU needs to strengthen the plant-based protein sector and encourage a transition towards more plant-based diets, building on policy proposals including the Plant-Based Treaty.



PES supports the CAP must also increasingly facilitate investment support to improve the resilience and accelerate the green transformation of farms, in line with the Farm to Fork.



We are in favour of investing more into research for sustainable farming practices as a whole.



We must foster innovation and invest in breakthrough technologies to make better decisions, manage our resources efficiently, address the effects of climate change, make groundbreaking advancements in agriculture and fisheries and safeguard biodiversity.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



In general yes, but we see no opposition between environment and health goals and economic goals. A viable economic future for farming in Europe requires environmental sustainability. Protecting farmers' incomes, producing healthy and affordable food for consumers, and protecting the climate and environment go hand in hand.



PES calls to strengthen the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to ensure that EU agricultural policy contributes to climate transition and increased biodiversity to secure sustainable, long-term food production within the EU, as adopted in the PES Malaga.



We support a reform of the CAP to prioritise the needs of small-scale farmers and the communities they support. The goal should be the wellbeing of our societies, including the environment. In particular, we consider nature conservation and the protection of natural landscapes to be an important part of the CAP reform.

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Yes, our manifesto is clear that the EU needs to strengthen the plant-based protein sector and encourage a transition towards more plant-based diets, building on policy proposals including the Plant-Based Treaty.



PES supports the need to safeguard food security by ensuring the resilience and sustainability of food production and consumption, restoring nature, and ensuring the affordability of healthy food, including organic food – as adopted in the PES Malaga Resolution.



As a party, we do not have a position on this point and have not discussed binding targets. In general, however, we are in favour of promoting sustainable foodstuffs.

The recent CAP reform already set the path towards a more sustainable agriculture policy. We support the implementation of the targets such as for eco-schemes and rural development set to enhance the environmental and climate impact. Member states have the flexibility to increase these percentages further and adjust their ambitions. These efforts align with our party's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture and food system for our well-being, while safeguarding biodiversity, preserving natural resources and fostering economic growth.

Clarifications

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



As a general and guiding value, we are committed to the precautionary principle and believe that it is especially important around issues of human health.



We have not discussed this as a party, but in principle we are in favour of developing more sustainable foodstuffs, which could include replicated animal products.



ALDE calls for the European Union to simplify the procedure of authorisation of genetically-edited plants that do not contain exogenous genetic material except for short insertions, subtracting them from the provisions foreseen by the Directive 2001/18.

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



Yes, our manifesto is clear that the EU needs to strengthen the plant-based protein sector and encourage a transition towards more plant-based diets, building on policy proposals including the Plant-Based Treaty.



We have not discussed this as a party, but in principle we are in favour of increasing research and investment into sustainable methods in general.

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



Organic, plant-based as well as locally produced products must be supported and given priority in public procurement for schools, hospitals, nursing houses, prisons, offices and large organisations.



PES supports the creation of a favourable food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets that benefit consumers health and quality of life, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.



While we would welcome this, we do not believe it should be the subject of a European-level regulation or directive. Rather, it is up to each authority to decide.

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



Organic, plant-based as well as locally produced products must be supported and given priority in public procurement for schools, hospitals, nursing houses, prisons, offices and large organisations.



PES supports the creation of a favourable food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets that benefit consumers health and quality of life, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy.



We are in favour of such programmes being as inclusive as possible, including to those with different dietary needs or preferences.

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?



While we are in favour of generalised descriptions, we could not support any labelling that could undermine the special status of recognised regional foodstuffs or traditional products. It would depend on the content of the specific proposal.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



We would advocate for lowered VAT on organic products, products issued from less environmentally impactful production methods, and plant-based products as well as locally produced food. This proposal could apply to both plant-based and animal-sourced food however.



Clarifications



PES supports the Farm to Fork proposal on allowing Member States to make more targeted use of rates, for instance to support organic fruit and vegetables.



Our party has no position on this because setting VAT rates are a member state competence.



Our vision is that market mechanisms must be adapted to foster better access and affordability of plant-based proteins along the food chain, creating a level playing field for these foods to compete in the market. The VAT must be used to nudge consumers into making better choices for the planet and their health. So, in general, healthy plant-based products should benefit from a lower VAT rate.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



Yes, we would advocate that plant-based foods, especially locally produced products, should be a priority for lowering VAT. This would both keep healthy food affordable but also support the plant-based sector.



PES supports the Farm to Fork proposal on allowing Member States to make more targeted use of rates, for instance to support organic fruit and vegetables.



Our party has no position on this because setting VAT rates are a member state competence.



ECPM members are supporting farmers.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



We support the application of the polluter pays principle to all sectors. As for all sectors, any such measures need to be carefully and progressively implemented to guarantee a just transition.



The PES believes there should be zero tolerance for environmental crimes that reduce quality of life in the long term. Strict sanctions must be imposed on polluting companies that affect human health and the environment, as adopted at the PES Malaga Resolution.



We believe the burden of transitioning to a more sustainable agriculture should be borne by the large-scale agribusiness and intensive farmers that are responsible for the greatest share of pollution. We support the introduction of a carbon border tax.



We support the polluter-pays principle in general, with no specific reference to the agri sector.



ALDE Party calls for expanding the scope of the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) to cover all remaining carbon-polluting sectors and develop a technology-neutral certification system for verified negative emissions.

Member States political parties positions

Questionnaire results

This section of our report presents the results from the same questionnaire that was distributed to political parties across various European countries, including Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Spain. The sixteen-pointed questions were designed to gauge each party's stance on issues related to plant-based diets, sustainability in food systems, and environmental and health policies within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

LEGEND



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

AUSTRIA

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health, the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the development of plant-based alternatives to meat, fish and dairy products?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?





Communist Party of Austria



The New Austria and Liberal Forum



Volt Austria



Austrian People's Party



Freedom Party of Austria



The Greens – The Green Alternative



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

AUSTRIA

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

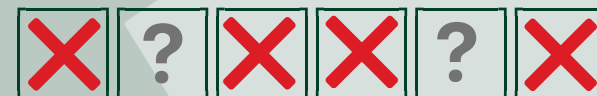
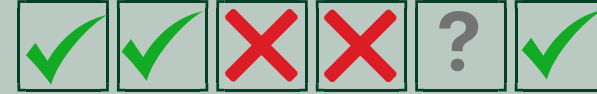
l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?





Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health, the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Redirecting agricultural subsidies away from the number of cultivated hectares and towards the implementation of sustainable measures such as the reduction of pesticides. To support this, an “agricultural green transition fund” is to be set up to help farmers with financing. (Moonshot Policy Act 10.5)



Austrian agricultural policy aims to work with incentives rather than prohibitions. The best example of this is the ÖPUL agri-environmental programme, which rewards voluntary additional efforts by farms for climate, environment and biodiversity. The fact that more than four-fifths of Austrian farms participate in this programme confirms its success.



Call for a package of measures for agriculture to combat inflation, including less EU bureaucracy and the waiving of social security and AMA marketing contributions as well as value-added tax and mineral oil tax.



We want to anchor the Green Deal targets, such as halving the use of pesticides and antibiotics and halving nutrient loss, as impact targets in the CAP. General climate protection targets and biodiversity targets must also be included in the CAP. The effectiveness of support in terms of achieving such impact targets must be regularly reviewed and improvements must be made if the achievement of targets is at risk.



NEOS naturally support binding targets in the CAP that improve health and the environment and are committed to concrete measures to implement these targets. At the same time, it must also be recognised that agricultural incomes in Austria, for example, are relatively low by European standards. We must therefore be realistic about what can actually be achieved by Austrian farmers.

b. Does your party support the development of plant-based alternatives to meat, fish and dairy products?



Plant-based alternatives can make sense if their production is not at the expense of the environment and climate protection. We therefore welcome the production of oat drink from regional oats, for example, whereby the added value remains in the country. The focus is on primary production with local food from our family farms. The elimination of meat does not require a substitute product; a vegetarian diet is also possible with locally produced plant-based food. It is important that food production is transparent. If alternative products are needed, then these should be made from local raw materials. Imitations often contain additives and fillers without nutritional values and deceive consumers into thinking they are a healthier alternative. Clear labelling is therefore essential to differentiate between original products and imitations.



For a healthy, sustainable diet, a significantly higher proportion of plant-based foods is urgently needed. When developing plant-based alternatives, we believe that other health aspects should also be taken into account, such as the degree of food processing. In our opinion, the biggest challenge is the change in diet itself. We are therefore focusing on expanding plant-based production, making plant-based dishes and products widely available, nutritional education and healthy and sustainable menu planning in public catering.



We are in favour of the research and development of meat, fish and dairy substitutes in order to reduce the production and consumption of cheap products and animal suffering. We do not want to patronise consumers, but want them to be able to make conscious consumption decisions on the basis of sufficient information.

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



It is important to take a look at the location and production conditions. For example, the production of beef or cow's milk in Austria emits considerably less CO2 equivalents than comparable production in other EU or non-EU countries.



The big levers must be moved to achieve the climate targets, for example in the form of a revenue-neutral ecological tax reform, the radical expansion of public mobility, extensive renovation initiatives, a revolutionised renewable energy system and a binding CO2 brake. In addition, a plant-based diet can also make an important contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



Once again, the principle of the eco-social market economy applies, in which ecological, social and economic aspects are given equal consideration: The supply of food in the supermarket is based on consumer demand. The aim must be to maximise self-sufficiency in local food. At the same time, the framework conditions for agriculture must be designed in such a way that sufficient healthy quality food can continue to be produced.



Our farmers produce high-quality, healthy food and ensure that the population is supplied even in times of crisis. Austrian agriculture has been under pressure for many years. The wrong EU agricultural policy, which only focuses on industrial agricultural production, is causing more and more farm closures, as is the pressure from the world market on our domestic agriculture. Appreciation of farmers and their products in the form of a fair price should once again be a matter of course. Our liberal agricultural policy takes the interests of our small-scale, family-run farms seriously and also has the political will to enforce these interests.



Clarifications



We support the definition of quantitative targets and emphasise the need to implement concrete measures in this context. These can be in the area of differentiation via taxes and duties, in the labelling of food to increase transparency and enable consumers to make knowledge-based decisions, or in binding legal requirements for food production (both in agriculture and in the food industry and processing).



NEOS is in favour of a coordinated concept of consumer information and consumer education, which must start at school. In view of the diverse challenges of the modern consumer world, this is an essential prerequisite for conscious and sustainable consumer behaviour.

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



First of all: Austria's farmers do not receive subsidies, but compensation payments. The objectives of the CAP are diverse and can be looked up here: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-glance_de. Austrian food production and, by analogy, agricultural policy should be geared towards the needs of consumers. It should be emphasised that particularly high-quality food is produced in Austria in both animal and plant production, which can be attributed to the reduction in the use of pesticides or integrated pest management, site-adapted cultivation and comprehensive controls. Depending on the location, the production of animal or plant-based food is more or less sensible. It must also be emphasised that food from Austria is produced in a particularly climate-friendly way compared to other European and global countries.



We are in favour of a complete reorientation of agricultural subsidies: Away from area-based direct payments and towards the promotion of ecological added value and labour. This does not always automatically mean a reorientation from animal to plant production, but where this is not the case, we are working towards a reduction in livestock numbers and an increase in animal welfare.

Specifically, we have campaigned for the following points in the past and continue to do so:

- No more investment subsidies for stables at statutory minimum levels or for expanding production, but subsidies exclusively for the conversion of existing stables to a higher animal welfare level with a maximum constant or decreasing animal population.
- Conversion programmes for farms with animal production to crop production. This is particularly relevant for pig farms, as they have large areas of arable land that could be used directly for human consumption.
- Subsidies for extensive grassland management. It is not possible to switch to crop production without ploughing up grassland, which we are not in favour of for climate protection reasons. In order to promote climate protection, nature conservation and animal welfare in equal measure, we are focussing on extensification here: lower livestock numbers, pasture for all animals, feeding with roughage, lower milk yield or slower growth.



We support a forward-looking agricultural policy that ties subsidies more closely to environmental and sustainability criteria and promotes regional and plant-based production.

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



We support research, regardless of whether it is applied to animal or plant production.



Investment in animal production should only take place where the animal population is not expanded and the standard of husbandry is significantly improved as a result of the investment. R&I in the animal sector should also focus on increasing animal welfare and animal health. On the other hand, investment, advisory and R&I support in the plant sector should be significantly expanded. In the plant sector, self-sufficiency rates are already well below 100% in some cases, in contrast to the animal sector. In the light of the change in diet that is already taking place and which we want to push even further, a significant increase in plant production and correspondingly better support is therefore important.



NEOS advocate a reorientation of investment and research programmes in order to promote the development and production of sustainable products. In the context of the major challenges posed by the fight against the climate crisis, greater consideration needs to be given to plant-based products.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



For the People's Party, the principle of an eco-social market economy with equal consideration of ecological, social and economic aspects has always applied. This is why we see the European Green Deal as an important project, but we are opposed to impractical targets that jeopardise competitiveness on the one hand and the security of supply of food, energy and raw materials for our continent on the other.



Clarifications



The CAP is essential for the ecological food and agricultural transition. Therefore, environmental and health objectives, as well as the protection of farm labour, must take priority. We therefore advocate a move away from direct payments per hectare and the promotion of ecological and general social added value, as well as labour in agriculture.



NEOS favours an agricultural policy that integrates ecological and health policy objectives, but at the same time also pays attention to the most efficient use of taxpayers' money.

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Austria is in favour of increasing the production of vegetable protein from Europe, but not in favour of a binding increase in the consumption of vegetable protein. The Austrian protein strategy was presented in 2021 with the aim of reducing soya imports by 50 per cent by 2030. On Austria's initiative, the EU Commission has also announced its intention to present a European protein strategy.



Our aim is to increase the proportion of plant-based protein in the human diet. However, it is also clear that a personalised diet cannot or should not simply be prescribed. Nevertheless, we support quantitative targets that set out a clear development path. In any case, these must be accompanied by concrete measures, e.g. in the areas of nutrition education, agricultural policy, tax policy, food labelling or public catering.



The expansion of plant-based protein production will, on the one hand, create a wide range of possible uses and, on the other hand, make Austria less dependent on climate-damaging soya imports. Accordingly, NEOS has also campaigned in the past for the rapid finalisation of an Austrian protein strategy. In order to increase the consumption of vegetable protein, however, we do not believe that paternalism through binding increase targets is expedient. Instead, consumers should have all the information they need to make informed purchasing decisions.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



Volt wants to improve agriculture with innovative methods to ensure food security despite climate change. Green genetic engineering offers a safe option here. Volt also stands for the research and development of in-vitro methods in order to make food production as climate-friendly as possible. (Moonshot Policy Act 10.5; 10.7)



Due to the major uncertainties and concerns associated with this, Agriculture Minister Norbert Totschnig, together with the Member States France and Italy, has called for a broad discussion on this topic at EU level. 18 Member States have joined this initiative. There is no comprehensive impact assessment on the effects of so-called cultured meat on human health or our environment.



We are in favour of a change in agriculture and nutrition. A profound, future-orientated restructuring of the system in all its aspects is necessary. After all, industrialised factory farming and far too much meat consumption cause considerable harm to people, animals and the planet. We are convinced that such a systemic change cannot be solved with substitute products alone. We need a new appreciation of animal life and a new appreciation of diverse, plant-based foods and dishes. Substitute products harbour the risk of creating the illusion of 'business as usual, just a little different'. This is why we prioritise the systemic aspects of the food transition in our work, as already described in the other questions. In the case of substitute products, we differentiate between products made from plant-based raw materials and meat from cell cultures. We actively support substitute products made from plant-based raw materials. Meat from cell cultures should, as planned, be authorised under the Novel Food Regulation and placed on the market if it meets the requirements. We do not see a need for a special focus in political work (this is how we understand 'support' in this issue), but on the other hand we are not against the research, development and (after authorisation) marketing of meat from cell cultures.



NEOS is in favour of the development and authorisation of meat substitutes in accordance with the requirements of the Novel Food Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2015/2283). It goes without saying that the health safety of all new foods must be established by the EFSA before they are placed on the market.

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



Austria has already presented its national protein strategy for 2021 with the aim of reducing imports of soya by 50 per cent by 2030. Around 50 per cent of the soya beans harvested in Austria are already being processed into food. On Austria's initiative, the EU Commission has also announced its intention to present a European protein strategy.



NEOS is in favour of strategies that aim to make better use of our resources. This would ultimately also lead to an increase in the consumption of alternative and resource-efficient protein alternatives.



Clarifications

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



A daily alternative is not (yet) directly demanded, but initially a weekly, but preferably exclusive plant-based offer (Moonshot Policy Act 10.7)



It is not our intention to patronise people who are dependent on meals in public canteens.



Thanks to the Green government's participation in Austria's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, the mandatory offer of a vegetarian or vegan 'climate plate', made from regional and seasonal ingredients and with at least one organically produced main ingredient, was enshrined for the first time. This was an important first step. The mandatory offer of a completely plant-based meal is the next important step, which we are also campaigning for.



NEOS support the offer of a plant-based meal in public canteens to give consumers the choice between a purely plant-based meal and a meal with animal products.

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



Once again, demand should determine supply.



Thanks to the participation of the Green Party in the government, domestic plant-based milk alternatives (made from oats and soya) are now at least eligible for funding for tastings and excursions as part of the school programme in Austria. Unfortunately, it was not possible to promote plant-based milk alternatives as part of the milk and fruit programme due to EU regulations. In any case, we support the amendment of the relevant EU legislation to include plant-based milk alternatives in the school programme.



Yes, NEOS already submitted an application to the federal government in March 2023 to include a plant-based alternative in the school milk programme in order to enable children who suffer from lactose and/or fructose intolerance or malabsorption to participate in this programme.

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?



This topic has not yet been included in the Europe-wide Moonshot Policy Programme, but may be addressed in future position papers.



Such labelling is less about information and more about misleading. There is rightly strict labelling protection for milk and dairy products at EU level, which makes a clear distinction between natural food and artificial imitation. The same labelling protection would also be desirable for meat and meat products.



Unfortunately, this is currently not the case, at least not for plant-based milk alternatives (EU law imposes strict rules in this area). We are of the opinion that names such as soya milk, oat milk, etc. are by no means misleading and are therefore campaigning for a change to these very restrictive labelling regulations. There are currently no similarly strict labelling regulations for meat and sausage alternatives. In any case, we will also speak out against such labelling if this is debated in the future.



For NEOS, the focus is on consumer education and consumer information. As long as it is ensured that consumers know what they are buying from the product name, the discussion about the specific name in individual cases is secondary.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



Our demands are not aimed directly at VAT, but at general market and support mechanisms to make sustainable, plant-based foods more attractive than animal-based foods, including in terms of price. (Moonshot Policy 10.7)



According to the recommendations of the Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), dairy products should be consumed daily. We therefore believe that animal products, which are considered staple foods, are rightly subject to a lower VAT rate than artificially produced alternatives.



Clarifications



The aim here is to harmonise the reduced tax rate. Food produced in an environmentally friendly manner must not be treated less favourably.



In view of changing social eating habits and an understanding of climate-friendly, resource-conserving nutrition that has reached the centre of society, a change in the tax rate for vegan milk substitute products is long overdue. NEOS have already tabled a motion on this issue.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



Our demands are not aimed directly at VAT, but at general market and support mechanisms to make sustainable, plant-based foods more attractive than animal-based foods, also in terms of price. (Moonshot Policy Act 10.7)



In our opinion, animal products, which are considered staple foods, are rightly subject to a lower VAT rate than artificially produced alternatives.



Good things are cheap, costs are transparent: we are all currently paying the costs of poor nutrition – diseases and their treatment, global warming, species extinction. What keeps us healthy, protects biodiversity and the climate and respects animal welfare should be the cheaper option. Incentives for a healthy, organic diet must therefore be created – environmentally friendly food must not be less favourable than other products (→ question 1). However, the distinction in the question is simply too crude, as there are also major differences in the production and husbandry conditions within animal – as well as plant-based – foods. It is therefore necessary to think more broadly when setting incentives, as VAT is only a minor component of the price. True-cost pricing with regard to emissions in production, for example, can provide better and fairer incentives than an across-the-board reduction in VAT. Beyond price signals, enabling consumers to make knowledge-based decisions is crucial, which can only be achieved through an overall concept that should also include, for example, better food labelling to increase transparency. In our opinion, animal products, which are considered staple foods, are rightly subject to a lower VAT rate than artificially produced alternatives.



Even if one can support such a demand for ecological reasons, NEOS attach great importance to a simple and transparent tax system. In addition, national VAT rates must be in line with the EU regulatory framework. For these reasons, we are in favour of a standardisation of tax rates, not a better tax position.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Farmers emit greenhouse gases where it is not otherwise possible – the CO₂ equivalents emitted by agriculture in Austria have been reduced by 16.7% since 1990. At the same time, however, agriculture and forestry is the only economic sector that provides the basis for storing CO₂, for example, through sustainable forest management or humus formation.



We are in favour of extending the polluter-pays principle to agriculture, as mentioned in the question. Implementation in agriculture is quite complex. Important points that need to be considered include fairness towards farms that use particularly environmentally friendly production methods, simple handling instead of extensive new bureaucratic obligations, and a social structure – as has also been achieved with the Austrian CO₂ price and the climate bonus. In any case, the aim must be to make it as easy and attractive as possible for farmers to choose more environmentally and climate-friendly farming methods and for consumers to choose more environmentally and climate-friendly food.



NEOS have been calling for true cost accounting for years. A concept of CO₂ taxation would ultimately also cover emissions in agriculture, primarily via the fossil fuels used.

BELGIUM

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



DéFI



cd&v



Vooruit



MR



Parti Socialiste



PVDA-PTB



N-VA



Les Engagés



Ecolo



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

BELGIUM

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?





Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

VERBODUIT

Concrete targets concerning – for example – use and risk of pesticides and antibiotics is essential for us given the public health implications of the use of these products in the sector.

MR

For too long, the CAP has been seen solely as a tool for supporting agricultural production, rather than as a policy for supporting producers, including in their transition to greater sustainability, and guaranteeing their future income. Farmers must be given the means to achieve the objectives of strategic food self-sufficiency, preservation of agriculture and compliance with health and environmental standards. But we must also avoid burdening farmers with excessive or changing standards and procedures.

NVA

We do not believe binding targets are the right way. However, governments should try their best to improve human health, nonetheless.

CD

Although we need to promote healthy food, politics/policy will never be a 100% able to control what people consume. Therefore we are more in favour of binding targets for healthy food rather than for human health.

Ecolo

Public fundings have to achieve common good. The CAP must be part of it and reach 30% of biological farming in 2030 and follow the goals fixed in the Farm to Fork Strategy by 2030 : -50% of pesticides uses, -20% of chemical fertilisers, -20% of agricultural greenhouse gas (within -30% methane), -50% food waste in the whole chain, higher consumption of vegetable in our daily diet with less sugar and fat.

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

VERBODUIT

Binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions and emissions that impact the environment like nitrogen are crucial. The same goes for pesticide use and risk and soil health.

NVA

We believe that the CAP should be more environmentally focused.

CD

Given that agriculture is weather dependent, we are in favour of effort-based binding targets. E.g. The volume of rain in a given period, affects the water quality as well as the actions a farmer takes. We cannot blame the farmer for the weather, but we should have binding targets depending on the environmental actions the farmer takes.

Ecolo

Yes. The CAP must be part of it and reach 30% of biological farming in 2030 and follow the goals fixed in the Farm to Fork Strategy by 2030 : -50% of pesticides uses, -20% of chemical fertilisers, -20% of agricultural greenhouse gases (within -30% methane), -50% food waste in the whole chain, higher consumption of vegetable in our daily diet with less sugar and fat.

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

VERBODUIT

To reach our climate goals we will have to eat less meat. But a solely plant-based diet is not a top priority for us. Meat can be a part of a sustainable diet, just in a more limited quantity.

MR

Yes, but freedom of choice is really important for us, liberals. People are free to choose the food they want to eat. We want a policy based on incentives, not coercion.

PS

The most important tool for achieving climate objectives is to reduce the agricultural sector's emissions. This involves helping farmers to move away from extensive farming towards sustainable practices.

CD

We would not consider plant-based diets as an essential tool. There 's many other, or complementary, ways to achieve climate targets.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

MR

We are in favour of clear communication to the public on the food quality of products, in particular through labelling, as well as a pricing policy that encourages healthy consumption (to be considered as part of an overall tax reform).

CD

We believe in setting incentives to shift companies' and peoples' behaviors as well as support the structuring of adequate value chains. We do not ask for a politics of ban or quotas with respect to what can be sold and in which proportion in supermarkets. Such intrusive policy would have detrimental effect by turning citizens against the objectives we pursue to shift consumption towards more healthy and more sustainable alternatives.

Ecolo

We support the introduction of a better "nutriscore" and complete it with an "ecoscore" to push up the standards of healthy and sustainable food in supermarkets. Low scoring products will be progressively replaced by better one. We also have a law proposal to put a minimum of local and biological products in each food markets.

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



Clarifications

VLDORUIT

In the long term we want the CAP to become a transition fund for sustainable agriculture and only give support and funding for investments in sustainable agriculture infrastructure and methods. Limiting the effect of the agriculture sector on the climate and environment will necessarily coincide with a decline in (non land-based) livestock population, certainly in regions like Flanders. That means not giving direct support for grassland or animals but for transitioning towards sustainable animal husbandry or public services. This does not necessarily mean reducing support for the livestock sector.

MR

The CAP is a subsidy to the European production system that makes our agriculture more competitive. The challenge is above all to make it more flexible and better designed so that it supports sectors that are suffering and avoids supporting sectors that are doing well. Its two central objectives must be to consolidate the EU's food sovereignty and to promote our high social and environmental standards.

CD

Our party supports a shift of the CAP subsidies from big business and landowners to the real farmers – and especially small farmers – with aids specifically to support the ecological transition of the sector. Support to crops entering plant-based products as an alternative to meat has its place in that transition. But we believe extensive, ground-based livestock farming.

NVA

As a party we support shifting the CAP from payment per hectare towards payment with a sustainability focus (however, not exclusively). This ensures a more holistic approach.

CD

We are in favour of exploring other CAP instruments, such as higher grassland subsidies, rather than the coupled payments actually in place for sheep and cattle. Coupled payments do not lead to a higher farmers' income due to capitalisation of subsidy-effects. A natural limit is that certain regions in Wallonia have less fertile soils where only grass can grow. Because only ruminants can convert grass into food edible to humans, cattle, , e.g. milk and meat, will remain a source of local food.

ECOLO

We want to shift CAP subsidies to agroecology, with higher subsidies for biological farming, eco-schemes, extensif livestock and food crops. We also push for a fairer redistribution among farmers.

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

VLDORUIT

Transitioning towards a sustainable food system will include the production of more plant-based food and in order to develop this sector we need an ecosystem with cooperation between research, farmers and food processing. It is essential that the government facilitates this.

MR

The MR wants to review the whole landscape of institutions and players that enable innovation in the agricultural sector. The fragmentation of skills, scientific disciplines and production methods needs to be replaced by flexible support and public-private partnerships.

NVA

Funding should be based on several criteria, such as innovation, sustainability. We as a party are neutral when it comes to technology, as long as it helps to achieve goals f.e. reduction of CO2 emissions. When it comes to plant-based food, we believe this is an important part of the answer to reduce emissions.

CD

Yes. By eating a more plant based diet, you can reduce your carbon footprint and environmental impact, allowing for a sustainable environment on an inhabitable planet.

ECOLO

We have already funded research in development in the belgium food chain to extend human consumption of vegetable proteins. We have also funded development in vegetable proteins and oilseed crops.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

VLDORUIT

Yes, but only in the long term. Currently the CAP remains essential for guaranteeing the income of farmers. Before we can significantly shift the funds from direct income support towards climate, environment and health goals we need to restore competition within the agri-food-supply-chain and strengthen the bargaining position of farmers.

PS

By guaranteeing a decent wage for farmers

CD

We believe the agricultural sector needs also economic support, so as to guarantee a fair revenue to farmers and affordable prices for consumers. Of course, attention shall also be paid to environmental and health policy aspects.

NVA

We believe that sustainability should become a bigger part within the CAP. However, the CAP cannot focus only on health, environment, or economy. It has to be balanced.

CD

Yes, and given a poor farmer will never be able to invest in environmentally friendly food production, environmental efforts by farmers should be compensated for more than 100% of the real cost without huge administrative burdens.

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Clarifications

VVDORUIT

Our goal is to make plant protein alternatives as accessible as possible but we are not going to tell people what they can and cannot eat.

MR

All initiatives aimed at diversifying the food chain and promoting our local products are welcome. However, they must take account of the economic and health imperatives weighing on the sector and be able to achieve profitability (or at best financial neutrality if they are not-for-profit or part of the social economy) so as not to be overly dependent on public money. The role of the State is to enable the emergence of these companies, not to keep them artificially alive by discouraging other non-subsidised initiatives.

MR

All initiatives aimed at diversifying the food chain and promoting our local products are welcome. However, they must take account of the economic and health imperatives weighing on the sector and be able to achieve profitability (or at best financial neutrality if they are not-for-profit or part of the social economy) so as not to be overly dependent on public money. The role of the State is to enable the emergence of these companies, not to keep them artificially alive by discouraging other non-subsidised initiatives.

NVA

We cannot force people to eat certain products. However, we believe action plans to try to increase production and consumption of plant protein are helpful.



Yes, plant protein consumption is a good way to decrease the carbon footprint.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

VVDORUIT

Cultivated meat is an interesting alternative to classical animal husbandry if the production method has a lower impact on the climate and the environment.

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

VVDORUIT

Transitioning towards a sustainable food system will include the production of more plant-based food and in order to develop this sector we need an ecosystem with cooperation between research, farmers and food processing. It is essential that the government facilitates this. But again, we are not going to tell people what they should or should not eat and the plant-based proteins will have to compete with other protein products on a level playing field.

MR

For the MR, research needs to be on the farm, investing in every aspect of its operation to revolutionise the world of agriculture. We are calling for the guidelines and criteria we set ourselves for agriculture to be able to incorporate the general objectives of profitability, traceability and quality food, positive environmental impacts, optimisation and the fight against waste. We are calling for the scientific and agricultural worlds to be decompartmentalised, and for research to be integrated at the level of the farmer's reality. The public and private sectors are not in opposition, they must complement each other, and it is on the basis of this collective effort that we will achieve sustainability.

NVA

We also have an action plan in Flanders in place.



We currently eat more meat than what the food pyramid and nutritionists recommend. We support a gradual shift to more plant-based diets, taking into account that meat will still be part of our nutrition.

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

MR

The MR wishes to define a development plan for sustainable school canteens. The aim of this plan is to provide healthy, balanced meals that promote the educational development of pupils while stimulating the local economy and short supply chains.

NVA

For the government we do, however, for private initiatives, we will not make it mandatory, but encourage.



We want to guarantee healthy meals that are cooked with local produce and that are financially accessible. We support incentives to canteens in order to gradually introduce and promote vegetarian meals and reduce food waste.

ecolo

Our programme states: To promote and anchor new and better eating habits over the long term, we want to step up the dissemination of health recommendations for a balanced diet, with more plant proteins and whole, varied, local, seasonal and quality foods.

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

MR

Why not, if students are free to choose the drinks they want.

PS

By allowing children to choose the type of milk



Belgium does not have a milk and fruit programme. We do not plan on introducing one.



Clarifications

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?

VOORUIT

There are more important priorities than what we name our food.



To guarantee the quality, the use of terms like “meat substitutes” should be regulated in a EU definition to ensure the proper nutritional values and information to consumers.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

VOORUIT

Vooruit’s position is that equivalent products should be treated equivalently under the VAT rules. This means that plant-based alternatives to equivalent animal-based products should be taxed under the same rate as a principle. There should however be room for justifiable exceptions, for example the addition of sugar to liquids, warranting a different treatment.

CD&V

Our party wants to abolish the Value Added Tax (VAT) on basic goods, such as food. The VAT would thus be 0% for plant-based as well as animal-based foods.

NVA

We are proponent in simplifying taxation. Equal VAT is an important measure in achieving this.



We propose to have the VAT evolve into a Health and Environmental Value Added Tax (HE-VAT). The VAT rates will therefore change with respect to the environmental and health impact of the product. A very polluting or unhealthy product will have a higher VAT whilst local vegetables, for example, will have a 0% VAT rate. To the extent plant-based or animal-sourced foods vary in their health and environmental impacts, the rates applicable to them would also vary.

Ecolo

We propose to complete the “nutriscore” with an “ecoscore” which also take into account organic, local, climate, ecological and nutrition aspects. Lower Value Added Tax (VAT) will be justified to push forward healthy aliments for people and the planet, in a fairer economic game with clear criteria for the producers. We are already active in Wallonia and Brussel in this sens with support to labels like Bio, C’Durable and Agroecology.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

VOORUIT

Equivalent products should be treated equivalently under the VAT system. In that regard, we don’t believe the VAT system is the correct tool for promoting the consumption of plant-based alternatives. Also, most food products already are subjected to a reduced VAT rate in Belgium. There is also a consideration of the budgetary cost of lowering the VAT rate on plant-based alternatives. Vooruit’s primary tax objective is lowering the tax burden on wages, specifically lower- and middle income wages. Increasing their purchasing power, gives these families the ability to consider different and more healthy food choices, including plant-based alternatives to animal-based foods. We believe that is a better solution than a VAT-reform.

MR

The MR supports ambitious tax reform in Belgium to reduce the country’s very high tax burden. Anything is possible, but the first priority is to cut taxes on labour.

CD&V

Our party wants to abolish the Value Added Tax (VAT) on basic goods, such as food. The VAT would thus be 0% for plant-based as well as animal-based foods.

NVA

No, this would make taxation regulations more complex.



Not necessarily. It depends of the sustainable way, the animal is fed and growth. Regarding to health perspective there is not a hierarchy between animal base product and vegetables base products.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?

VOORUIT

We support an emission trading system for greenhouse gases as well as one for other pollution from the agriculture sector such as nitrogen. Although such systems must be separate from other sectors so, for example, industry can’t buy up emission rights. It must also be implemented gradually and with an eye on food prices and linked with a carbon border tax to ensure fair competition and limit carbon (or emission in general) leakage.

CD&V

We are opposed to carbon taxes as we consider them as unfair. We believe more than 30 years of market-based climate policy has more than enough proven its failure. There is a need for far more public action and a stringent policy towards big industry (especially the carbon energy industry), which remains by far the main polluter.

NVA

We will not create an additional administrative burden for a sector that already has many difficulties. However, we do strive for a more environmentally focused CAP.



The Health and Environmental Value Added Tax we propose will implement this principle. But ETS is mainly targeting industrial sector and we don’t think it is the best mechanism fitted for the agricultural sector.

CZECHIA

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Česká pirátská strana



Česká suverenita sociální demokracie (ČSSD)



Hnutí SEN 21



KDU-ČSL



Liberální aliance nezávislých občanů



Starostové a osobnosti pro Evropu



TOP 09



Volt Česko



Zelení



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

CZECHIA

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Konzervativní strana supports the free market. We believe that by providing truthful information (especially about the ingredients and origins of a particular food), consumers can choose and buy what they like at the relevant price. Of course, unsafe foodstuffs should not be put on the market. All other regulations are unnecessary and harmful distortions of the free market.



We appreciate your interest in finding out our political movement's current opinion. After reviewing the questionnaire and the questions asked, and after learning that you are working on a transformation of the global food system supported by the Sustainable Development Agenda 2040, we present to you that an objective public discussion with arguments for and against should be held on the questions you have asked, and the result of such a discussion and the questions you have asked should be heard in REFERENDUM. Citizens are the source of all state power, and to date, they have not had the right to express themselves as to whether they want to support Agenda 2040 and the forced transformation of agricultural and food policy.

Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



In the European Parliament, we, for example, advocate for a systematic reduction in the use of pesticides in agriculture



We do not have a united view on this, and we are generally committed to increased protection of the population's health, which cannot be limited to agricultural policy. This topic relates primarily to other components of environmental and industrial protection.



We are closely involved in the concept of changes in children's dietary habits. This is a multi-ministerial cooperation, especially between the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture. We are working on significant changes in the school catering system. The apparent foundation should lay within families, but it is school establishments that can very successfully initiate changes in long-standing unsustainable trends in our population.

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



The Pirates support the implementation of binding targets in the area of biodiversity protection or landscape structure building. Publicly subsidised agriculture must meet long-term sustainable objectives.



Progress in gentle / gradual steps



Our long-standing effort is to incorporate sustainable principles into the corresponding concept materials. One of these is the CAP. It is already defined in the basic principles that it is set up to promote the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture. This common policy also defines targets for status improvement. However, it is a dynamic material that also evolves according to the impact of its application and also according to the geopolitical situation. Our basic premises are the preservation, or rather the restoration, of natural values, the conservation of the landscape and the protection of biodiversity. A significant challenge we fully incorporate in all our materials and approaches is the ongoing climate change and adaptation to it. At the same time, however, we have ambitions not only to adapt but also to take a proactive approach to mitigating and slowing down climate change. This approach is reflected in the discussion and development of conceptual materials, especially in the ministries where our representatives are in charge – science and research, health, environment, agriculture, and local development.

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



Currently, the priorities for achieving climate targets lie mainly in the areas of energetics, transport and energy efficiency in buildings.



We consider it part of a comprehensive solution plan, with each part having its own significance to the intended entity.



It is not possible to give an affirmative answer to such a question. Its very formulation suggests an entirely wrong approach to promoting possible alternatives and, in principle, hampers possible dialogue. Our aim is to take a balanced approach to all resource options and not to try to impose a 'one right solution' on citizens. We can, of course, inform on all alternatives and impacts based on scientific knowledge. On the other hand, we respect the key principles of individuality and personal rights, so it is up to everyone to decide their habits freely and without any forceful measures.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



The Pirates do not support mandatory quotas or similar inadequate intervention in the market environment (both at the national and European levels), which would be pretty difficult to enforce and most likely counterproductive. We believe that promoting local production of plant-based foods and increasing their availability are adequate incentives for retailers to respond in light of current consumer trends.



60% share of Czech products.



This is a disproportionate intrusion into the business environment; people should be able to adjust their healthy diet without government interference



Every store beyond a certain area should have a mandatory section for local, healthy food and organic products. It should automatically take these foods, even from small producers, at any time and even for short periods. Whether the section would be filled or not, there would be an alternative.



This is a similar issue and our approach, which we have explained in previous answers. Any quotas are counterproductive and do not lead to the needed permanent changes.

Clarifications

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



We support balanced production that promotes extensive husbandry and reduces intensive husbandry.



For a fair redistribution of such financial resources to develop a more sustainable food sector of the future.

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



Unfortunately, Commissioner Wojciechowski from the Polish ultra-conservative Law and Justice Party (ECR) 's activities in this area are absolutely insufficient.



Yes, but again, with a fair redistribution of financial resources, so there is always an alternative and a choice, with a preference for the more sustainable foods of the future.



Support for any research must be balanced, and it is not necessary to prioritise research in only one area. On the other hand, we are interested in supporting all research activities that lead to a sustainable way of life and a balanced diet covering all the necessary nutrients. Prioritising one area is not a sustainable approach in the long term and usually provokes negative reactions.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



Changing the approach to CAP with greater regard for the impact on the environment and people's health is at the heart of the Pirates' agenda



The priority is to ensure that economic objectives do not conflict with those relating to the environment and health.

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



The Pirates do not support mandatory quotas or similar inadequate intervention in the market environment (both at the national and European levels). In the European Parliament, we repeatedly vote for more significant support for producing plant proteins under the CAP and limiting excessive subsidies to livestock "mega" farmers.



We leave this topic to the supply and demand of the market. We want to focus more on education and R&D while supporting the current consumer trend.



It's definitely needed. Through the policy mentioned above - to move away from increased subsidies for carbohydrate-producing foods (cereals) in favour of plant-based protein. For better human health and soil and landscape condition.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



We see an opportunity in alternative methods of meat reproduction. Of course, specific measures need to be evaluated in the context of the impact study.



Progress cannot be stopped.



We are not interested in hindering any activities to find other alternatives for securing food sources.

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



Research support is needed. Alternatives have a plethora of benefits. We support start-ups that respond to current societal trends and focus on a sustainable future.



Clarifications

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



This subject is not relevant to the European Parliament, as it is a competence of the Member States. Personally, we would support measures to ensure the availability of fully plant-based foods in public canteens.



No, however, alternatives should be implemented, e.g. in educational establishments and public offices.



Not mandatory, but recommended.



Again, any directive approaches do not lead to the right and sustainable goals. It has to be a menu that is not enforceable by regulation, but there is already a natural effort by most catering establishments, based on the growing demand from people, to include dishes based solely on plant-based ingredients.

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



This subject is not relevant to the European Parliament, as it is a competence of the Member States. In general, our priority is an overall reform of institutional (school) catering that would emphasise factors such as "locality, freshness and seasonality". However, if these programmes were to be maintained, we would support the choice of animal and plant-based milk alternatives.



We favour a complete revision of these programmes because of their inefficiency. However, we agree that alternatives should be provided, e.g., because of lactose intolerance



More likely, yes, but not automatically, only complementary and proven products.



This would be a totally irresponsible approach, especially in educational establishments, especially for younger children, with an emphasis on nursery children. It would only develop their dependence on the food industry, which has to heavily subsidise alternative drinks with substances that cannot naturally occur in them by virtue of their origin.

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?



We also supported this in the European Parliament's voting.



This is a fundamental disagreement. If it is a plant-based product, it should be labelled so that it cannot mislead the consumer. There is not a single explicable reason, other than a commercial one, why it should use names which evoke the term, for example, meat or milk when these are entirely different products. At the same time, however, we fully support their sales and are definitely not opposed to the research and production of products that are intended, for example, to replace meat.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



This subject is not relevant to the European Parliament, as the allocation of VAT rates is the competence of the Member States. Personally, we are not opposed to a system in which plant-based foods would have a lower VAT than foods of animal origin.



We support tax relief for a more planet- and climate-friendly way of eating, i.e. for the plant-based food.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



This subject is not relevant to the European Parliament, as the allocation of VAT rates is the competence of the Member States. Personally, we are not opposed to a system in which plant-based foods would have a lower VAT than foods of animal origin.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



This is gradually leading to the liquidation of the Czech industry.

DENMARK

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?


f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?

												
✓	✓	✗	?	✗	✓	?	✓	?	?	☞	☞	?
✓	✓	✗	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☞	☞	?
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 The Red-Green Alliance

 The Liberal Party

 The Danish People's Party

 The Moderates

 The Liberal Alliance

 The Green Left

 The Conservative Party

 Danish Social Liberal Party

 The Social Democrat Party

 The Alternative

 New Right

 The Denmark Democrats

 Danish Social Liberal Party



This report compiles individual responses from EU candidates across all parties. If the majority of individuals from a party responded with yes, no, or 'no position', the recorded answer reflects the majority response. In cases where there is an equal number of responses between 'yes' or 'no' and 'no position', the decision is to record 'No position'. When responses are more evenly spread across different options, 'other' is the chosen designation.



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

DENMARK

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



?	?	?	✓	✗	?	?	✓	✓	✓	ghost	ghost	?
✓	✓	✗	?	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	ghost	ghost	✓
✓	?	✗	?	✗	✓	✗	✓	?	✓	ghost	ghost	✓
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FRANCE

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Parti Animaliste



Equinoxe



La France Insoumise



Les Ecologistes



Ecologie Au Centre



Parti Socialiste



Europe Equitable



Rassemblement National





YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

FRANCE

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Our aim is to promote healthy, toxin-free agriculture. Our objectives: to reduce the use of pesticides by 80% and synthetic fertilizers by 20%, starting with the most dangerous. We also aim to reduce by at least 50% the use of antimicrobials such as antibiotics in livestock and aquaculture. Support all players in the industry, and strengthen advice and research. We reject the marketing of new GMOs and call for the application of the precautionary principle on these new genomic techniques, whose impact is unknown and unknown and uncontrolled. In general, we would like to see environmental and health regulations harmonized across Europe.



The Rassemblement National is in favour of renationalising the CAP, and the NHPs are a first step in this direction. These NHPs must guide our action in the agricultural field, but without being an additional constraint. Over the past few years, French farmers have been particularly hard hit by European standards, notably the banning of products or techniques without alternatives. Governance by constraint does not work. That's why we need to invest in research to develop all these alternatives, before resorting to binding measures such as bans.

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



We want the CAP and SFNs to encourage the transition to agro-ecology, on the one hand by setting targets and developing new sectors, and on the other by making these practices desirable for farmers through appropriate subsidies. In addition to a redistribution of CAP subsidies by labor units rather than by hectare, we support the introduction of a Career Endowment mechanism; the creation of an Agricultural Transition Fund; and the remuneration of good ecological practices that respect animal welfare. The European Union must also pursue a proactive policy to develop new sectors, and work towards free, organic and diversified seeds. Finally, we need a plan for the transition of livestock farming to organic, extensive, human-scale systems that respect animal welfare. We want Europe to support and finance the restructuring and diversification of farms and sectors, and to combat intensive livestock farming.



As with the previous question, the Rassemblement National is not in favour of imposing new standards on our farmers. Such a decision would be all the more unfair given that, at the same time, the European Union is compensating for the loss of agricultural productivity in its member states by importing products that do not meet our health and environmental standards – a practice multiplied by the ratification of free-trade agreements.

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



The content of our plates is a social project



Yes, that's why we want Europe to achieve a 50% reduction in meat and fish consumption by 2030.



Once again, we need to combine the demand for quality food with limited environmental impact, respect for our farmers and consumer freedom. Vegetation is necessary, but it must not be forced on farmers or consumers. The main challenge is to reduce our imports of lower-standard meat and give consumers access to better-quality products, thereby boosting their purchasing power. The greening of the diet is already underway, whether through individual choice or financial constraints: between 2007 and 2016, French meat consumption fell by 12%.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



We want to put in place a framework law on sustainable food systems that will guarantee the right to food for all Europeans and involve all players in the agri-food sector in the transition. We need to restore the role of primary producers in negotiations with processors and distributors, and set targets for healthy, sustainable products. We need to improve the corporate governance framework, including the obligation for the food industry to integrate sustainability into corporate strategies and to monitor food supply chains. Promoting sustainable food consumption also means improving consumer information, with new nutritional and environmental labelling, and greater transparency regarding companies' environmental and social performance.



While the Rassemblement National remains opposed to the idea of constraint, it is fully in favour of working to promote French food in supermarkets. In fact, it is proposing to reach 80% of local products in canteens and public procurement through a major economic patriotism law entitled "Mangeons français!".

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



Yes, as part of a common agricultural and food policy and with a framework law on sustainable food systems.



The Rassemblement National defends the total renationalisation of the CAP in order to guarantee French food sovereignty and self-sufficiency. As a result, the cultivation of plants will be supported in the reform of the CAP proposed by our movement.

Clarifications

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



Investment in research is a key issue for agriculture, whether it's to move towards food self-sufficiency or to cope with climate change. We need to invest in the environmental sustainability of our crop production. The primary objective of this strong support for research and innovation must be French food sovereignty. For this reason, it cannot be restricted solely to sustainable plant-based foods.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



Yes, that's what we've been defending for years, showing that another CAP is possible.



Climate change, as well as land and water management issues, are forcing us to evolve. The growing number of health scandals (hormone-treated Canadian beef in 2020, tainted Brazilian meat in 2017, horsemeat lasagne in 2013) also calls for us to raise our standards in this area. These new demands require financial support for farmers. While the CAP must remain focused on productivity, with the aim of ensuring our food sovereignty, it must also take into account these new environmental and health requirements. Furthermore, any changes to national and European legislation and requirements would be rendered null and void if, at the same time, the European Union pursues the proliferation of free-trade agreements responsible for importing millions of tonnes of products into the European market that do not meet our health, social and environmental standards.

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



Consumption of plant proteins, like all other forms of consumption, is a matter of individual freedom. The State must work to make quality products more accessible, but cannot impose binding targets on French consumers.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



We support ensuring unbiased scientific assessment of health and environmental aspects of cultured meat, and fund research into the development of culture media free of fetal bovine serum.



We are totally opposed to cellular meat.



We support the development of plant-based alternatives to protein consumption, such as increased legumes or seaweed cultivation, without supporting the development of cellular agriculture.



The development of plant-based alternatives could form part of a broader policy aimed at ensuring France's food sovereignty. However, the development of laboratory alternatives such as cellular meat is undesirable, as it would ultimately mean transferring the production of quality meat from our farmers to meat that has been perfectly standardised by large laboratories. The risk is that this would lead to particularly unfair and violent competition against our farmers, even on a national scale, with quality requirements being dragged down.

j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



Yes, as part of the agricultural transition fund to support farmers in the transition, with investment and operating support.



The Rassemblement National defends a Europe of concrete projects and research. If several European countries wish to create such a fund or plan, France must join them. This is all the more crucial as the EU, as part of its food sovereignty project, has committed to a protein strategy. In November 2023, the ID group, of which the RN is a member, formulated a comprehensive counter-proposal calling for all forms of protein to be taken into account in this strategy, while warning of the ethical and transparency issues surrounding proteins derived from insects and laboratory meat. Finally, the overriding objective of such a European fund or plan must be the continent's food sovereignty. For this reason, it cannot be restricted to plant-based alternatives.

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



One of the main challenges for our local authorities is to increase the quality of their products, in particular by buying locally or even organically, while keeping costs under control. This is often a very complicated equation for communities with stretched budgets. Rather than multiplying the options, let's leave it up to local authorities to organize their canteens while aiming for 80% local produce as the main objective.



Clarifications

I. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



According to the French Ministry of Agriculture, the aim of this programme is "to promote healthier eating habits among schoolchildren, and to improve their knowledge of agricultural and agri-food products and supply chains". Priority must be given to the discovery of sustainable and local products, and to achieving the target of 50% of these products in school catering (target of 80% for RN), rather than plant-based alternatives which, in the case of milk, cost twice as much and are too costly for local authorities. It is imperative to be able to combine strong objectives in terms of food in canteens with the financial constraints of our local authorities.

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as "plant-based sausage" or "soy milk"?



The Rassemblement National defends the principle of transparency and non-confusion. Certain terms, such as "veggie steak", can be misleading in terms of composition: a beef steak leaves no doubt as to its composition, unlike a "veggie steak". They can also be misleading with regard to certain local products and geographical indications. It is therefore essential to defend clear trade names that reflect the specific characteristics of plant-based alternatives.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



We support reduced VAT on plant-based foods.



Yes, in France VAT rates are often already 5.5% for both types of product.



At present, food products in France are subject to a VAT rate of between 5.5% and 10%, depending on how they are consumed, with no discrimination between animal and vegetable products. There is no reason to change current legislation.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



The Rassemblement National supports the introduction of a basket of essential products with zero VAT in the event of an inflationary crisis. A lower VAT rate for plant-based alternatives would then be ineffective, particularly in the case of vegetable oils, butters and milks. This policy of reduced VAT on foodstuffs is, moreover, fully possible within the current EU framework and Directive 2006/112/EC.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



And in some cases polluter-repairer.



Carbon account



We support the principle of a tax on super-profits in the agri-food sector. We apply the "polluter pays" principle in many areas, including the toxic industries (e.g. PFAS).



This principle, which originated in industry, applies rather poorly to agriculture. This essential sector absolutely must be supported and protected in order to maintain the imperative of food sovereignty. Rather than a "polluter pays" principle, it is preferable above all to reduce the proportion of our food imported from countries with lower standards, and to halt the conclusion of free-trade agreements that open up our markets to meat products from countries practicing highly intensive livestock farming, such as Canada, New Zealand and Australia. What's more, 50% of France's greenhouse gas emissions are due to our imports. Reducing imports means not only protecting French producers and economic players from unfair international competition, but also acting for the environment and the climate.

GERMANY

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Alliance 90/The Greens



Social Democratic Party of Germany



Free Voters



Human Environment Animal Protection Party



Volt Germany



Ecological Democratic Party Federal Association



The Left



The CDU/CSU, AfD and the FDP did not respond. Parties stated they would only answer a select number of questions. EVU member Proveg Germany made the selection.



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

Clarifications

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



EU agricultural policy must promote agriculture that practices animal welfare, is in harmony with nature and produces healthy food. This includes ensuring that food is free from chemical residues such as pesticides and hormone-active substances. Livestock numbers must be reduced and we reject industrial livestock farming. The use of antibiotics in animal husbandry must be reduced to the bare minimum.



Antibiotic resistance is on the rise worldwide. Unfortunately, intensive use of antibiotics often occurs in animal husbandry. Due to the urgency of this problem of increasing resistance, which is seen as a global threat by the World Health Organization (WHO), we must take urgent action here. For us, it is therefore absolutely essential to reduce the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry. To do this, we need more appropriate animal husbandry systems and more land-based agriculture.



We see the introduction of mandatory labelling for regional geographical origin in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as a major step towards product safety and the production of healthy food according to uniformly high standards in the EU. We want to introduce this labelling requirement for products as well as for value-determining ingredients in processed foods. In the case of animal products, the countries of birth, rearing, fattening, slaughter and processing must be clearly labelled. For Germany, for example, this would be five times "D". The country of production is also mandatory for plant-based products such as fruit, vegetables, cereals and oils.



Our goals are to put an immediate end to factory farming, thereby reducing nitrates and other harmful substances in the soil, especially monocultures, and securing food for the world's population. We need to severely curb pesticides and preserve and build up nutrients in the soil through permaculture and agroforestry. Anything that protects our environment, ecosystems and climate also protects our health. Research and development within the framework of One Health must be massively promoted and driven forward in order to ensure a holistic approach to the health of humans, animals and nature.



We are in favour of harmonising European policy to switch to a healthy diet. This should be rich in plant-based foods and contain fewer animal-based foods. This will have a positive impact on health and the environment. An EU action plan should organise our food system and habits to comply with nutritional and environmental science recommendations, as Denmark has recently done. In addition, environmental education and nutritional counselling is needed to help citizens eat healthily. Underpinning the next reform of the Common Agricultural Policy with an ambitious and science-based action plan that shows how the sector needs to change in the coming years to ensure its overall sustainability. Reduce the burden that the frequent and incomplete rule updates place on the stability and income of farmers, with the aim of a science-based CAP.



In the EU, 60 to 70 per cent of soils and 81 per cent of protected habitats are in poor condition. One of the main reasons for this is industrial agriculture, which is threatening biodiversity and fuelling climate change. At the same time, there is growing pressure on agriculture to attach more importance to animal welfare. The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must therefore ensure that public funds are used for public welfare and not just for land ownership. This requires a fundamental reform of European agricultural funding. In future, farmers must receive more money for environmental and climate services and for investments in animal welfare, instead of the money being distributed almost exclusively according to the size of the area, as has been the case to date. Large-scale industrial agriculture is currently being unfairly favoured, while rural farms are losing out. Factory farming, monocultures and the massive use of antibiotics and pesticides are thus being subsidised by the EU. More species and climate protection is also in the interests of farmers, as they are among the first to feel the consequences of climate change. This is why a paradigm shift is needed in the CAP. A scientifically recommended, meat-reduced diet would also have a positive impact on people's health.



The Left supports the approach of binding targets and national strategic plans. The German government has so far failed to strategically address the massive shortcomings in the education, health and food sectors. We want to change this. We want to improve education and health with the help of public investment. We can only achieve improved health through high-quality, safe and nutritious food if it is also affordable and locally accessible. Germany has recognised the human right to adequate food but, according to a recent legal opinion, is committing a breach of the constitution with regard to the citizen's income. The standard rates are not sufficient for a supply of nutritious, healthy food. One specific goal is to improve catering in schools and educational establishments: School catering can become part of education and upbringing, canteens must be supplied with more and better regional and healthy food. We want to make catering in schools and daycare centres free of charge.

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Financial incentives under the CAP should serve to protect the climate and preserve biodiversity. This requires clear regulations for the reduction of pesticide use, the type and intensity of fertilisation and the promotion of crop rotation, the cultivation of protein crops and extensive grassland farming. As organic farming combines many sustainability effects, the aim is to achieve a 25 per cent share of organic farming by 2030.



Clarifications



In the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the SPD has campaigned for binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact of the CAP. It is clear to us that European agricultural policy must make its contribution to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement. Also, binding target markers for the objectives of the Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity Strategy, such as the target that 10% of agricultural land should consist of "landscape elements with high biodiversity". Unfortunately, conservatives and liberals did not want to support this in the European Parliament, so there was no majority in the plenary of the European Parliament.



We recognise the enormous upfront efforts of agriculture in saving carbon dioxide. We therefore reject the unfair allocation of CO2 output between economic sectors. This is the only way to ensure food security, food quality and health now and in times of crisis. The extensive environmental system services already provided under the second pillar of the CAP must be adequately remunerated. With regard to payments from the second pillar, we call for the numerous highly bureaucratic measures to be replaced by a small number of technically sensible measures in order to actually achieve measurable improvements for agricultural diversity.



We are committed to consistent climate and species protection. – The outstanding issues of this century. This is about peace and the survival of humanity and many other species on this beautiful planet. We, the Mensch Umwelt Tierschutz party, are guided by scientific findings and recommendations. Our focus in curbing these disasters lies in agricultural and environmental policy, where we see both the fatal consequences of profit-orientated lobby politics and the incredible potential as part of the solution. We want to finally give these sectors sufficient political weight to prevail against the lobbying policies of companies focussed purely on economic growth and to act for the common good. For example, we want to put an end to factory farming and protect the environment from pollution caused by harmful substances and plastic waste as well as from destruction caused by deforestation, sealing, drainage and coal mining, for example. We also want to provide animals and nature with comprehensive rights. We stand for an honest, ethical and sustainable policy.



By underpinning the next reform of the Common Agricultural Policy with an ambitious and science-based action plan that shows how the sector needs to change in the coming years to ensure its overall sustainability. Reduce the burden that frequent and incomplete rule updates place on the stability and income of farmers with the aim of a science-based CAP. In addition, full transparency of supply chains and production conditions is needed.



In the EU, 60 to 70 per cent of soils and 81 per cent of protected habitats are in poor condition. One of the main reasons for this is industrial agriculture, which is threatening biodiversity and fuelling climate change. At the same time, there is growing pressure on agriculture to attach more importance to animal welfare. The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must therefore ensure that public funds are used for public welfare and not just for land ownership. This requires a fundamental reform of European agricultural funding. In future, farmers must receive more money for environmental and climate services and for investments in animal welfare, instead of the money being distributed almost exclusively according to the size of the area, as has been the case to date. Large-scale industrial agriculture is currently being unfairly favoured, while rural farms are losing out. Factory farming, monocultures and the massive use of antibiotics and pesticides are thus being subsidised by the EU. More species and climate protection is also in the interests of farmers, as they are among the first to feel the consequences of climate change. This is why a paradigm shift is needed in the CAP. A scientifically recommended, meat-reduced diet would also have a positive impact on people's health.



We support the implementation of the targets. However, they are not enough to achieve a social and ecological turnaround in agriculture. Germany in particular does not produce for its own needs, but for the world market. The extremely high proportion of factory farming in Germany even leads to meat exports to China. We therefore want to fundamentally reform the CAP and base all payments on social, ecological and public welfare criteria. Specific goals include, for example, a voluntary exit programme from livestock farming and a comprehensive support and training programme for farmers that provides financial support and creates knowledge for the socio-ecological agricultural transition.

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



We want to increase the range of plant-based products, make them more easily accessible and change the EU's food-related funding programmes to make them climate-friendly. This is also important for achieving climate and species protection goals. That is why we are improving the framework conditions for plant-based foods by promoting research and market launches, among other things. We are therefore in favour of Europe-wide mandatory labelling to support sustainable, regional and plant-based nutrition.



The SPD is in favour of a regulatory policy in which European products are produced as sustainably as possible. We are committed to transparent labelling that gives consumers the opportunity to make rational decisions. It is important that we also take into account the natural limits of our planet, for example in terms of raw materials or CO2 compatibility, in our consumer behaviour. Consumers must be taken along on this journey. It is up to politicians, industry and agriculture to set binding targets so that products become more sustainable and healthier in the future. A good example of this is the setting of binding targets to reduce the use of pesticides.



An unhealthy diet has a huge impact on health and therefore on the financing of our healthcare system. That is why we are calling for detailed and legible labelling and declarations of foods. We believe the food industry has a duty to reduce the proportion of sugar, salt and trans fats.



We support measures to increase the proportion of ethical, organic and healthy foods on sale. This must be accompanied by information campaigns to raise awareness of the need for this.

Clarifications



We support stronger monitoring of the EU food market, as food is an essential commodity. This should protect consumers and ensure stable and fair prices for farmers. The aim is to create a framework for fair retail contracts, a mechanism for local and direct sales regulations and improved anti-dumping measures and monitoring. This should include the examination of competition and pricing practices. Small and medium-sized farms face particular challenges from exploitative relationships with retailers, corporate control and WTO pricing issues. They face high production costs and long-standing misguided CAP policies that prevent fairness and sustainability.



Consumers can be encouraged to buy healthier and more sustainable food through the price. One way of doing this would be to reduce VAT on healthy foods, such as fruit and vegetables. It is incomprehensible why unhealthy food is cheaper than healthy food. There is also an example in Belgium where a supermarket chain is giving a discount on all foods that have Nutriscore A on its own initiative. This initiative is to be welcomed.



Healthy and sustainable food must be affordable for everyone. This has a greater effect than binding targets for the proportion of healthy food on the shelves that people can't afford after all. The gap between rich and poor is widening. People on low and middle incomes have been hit particularly hard by the enormous food price inflation over the last three years. We are therefore calling for a food price freeze for a basket of basic foodstuffs: The large supermarket chains must guarantee that a basket of basic foodstuffs is offered at affordable prices. The reference value must be the standard citizen's income rate for food and non-alcoholic drinks. We also support ideas that specifically ensure that more people have access to fresh fruit and vegetables and less processed products.

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



In future, EU agricultural policy must consistently honour services for the common good and sustainability. This includes a reduction in the number of livestock. We must move away from feed imports and establish domestic legume cultivation through legal regulations for the establishment of plant protein sources.



The principle of 'public money for public services' should become the guiding principle for the promotion of farmers. We are therefore in favour of gradually reserving the 1st pillar of the CAP for this purpose on a binding basis and are calling for an EU-wide standardised, binding cap on existing direct payments for the transitional period. We want to continue to promote the cultivation of legumes for the production of meat substitutes. In view of the increasing environmental impact of larger livestock facilities, the SPD is in favour of a nutrient cycle that is to be guaranteed by land-based animal husbandry. We reject animal factories and factory farming.



We want to effectively stop the ongoing decline of farms in Germany. Livestock farming in Germany is dependent on reliable framework conditions. We therefore reject a further shift in subsidies.



Only sustainable and ethical farms should be supported with taxpayers' money. The larger farms in particular receive very large sums from CAP subsidies. Around 30 % of European greenhouse gases come from industrial livestock farming. In order to increase the motivation to switch to organic plant-based agriculture, we are vehemently in favour of urgently adjusting the subsidies. The cross-compliance requirements should represent the first steps towards improved ethical, ecological and sustainable conditions. Experience has shown that the effectiveness of cross-compliance is questionable in our view. It is therefore important to us that subsidies are generally no longer paid to industrial livestock farms.



We support the harmonisation of European policy to switch to a healthy diet. This should be rich in plant-based foods and contain less animal-based foods. Subsidies and consumption targets should be adjusted to increase the proportion of plant-based foods and reduce the proportion of animal proteins. Subsidies for environmentally damaging agricultural practices and payments per hectare of land should be abolished. These funds should be allocated to desirable agricultural practices. In doing so, we aim to support the shift to a regenerative agriculture model that strongly promotes sustainable and organic food, soil health restoration, pesticide reduction, sustainable water and land use, reversing biodiversity loss and animal welfare. Guidance and financial support for farmers during this transition period must be guaranteed to ensure their stability and income. At the same time, it must be recognised that livestock also play a role in nature and species conservation as well as in the cultural landscape. Sheep, for example, are important for maintaining dykes and keeping heathlands clear.



We need a paradigm shift. Currently, it is mainly industrial agriculture that benefits from EU payments, as most of the money is allocated on a flat-rate basis according to area. The EU also heavily subsidises the expansion of livestock production, with the well-known consequences for the climate, groundwater and biodiversity. Today's meat consumption, which is far too high, was only made possible by the increase in livestock numbers and the resulting low prices. However, this development not only jeopardises the climate, biodiversity and, in many places, drinking water, but also ruins the income of farming families. This is why the ÖDP - the Nature Conservation Party - strictly rejects industrialised animal husbandry. It is in favour of future-proof and sustainable livestock farming on farms and thus against agricultural factories. The ÖDP supports the demands of the 'Farms not agribusiness factories' network: European agricultural subsidies must be strictly linked to services for animal welfare and environmental protection. Animal welfare standards must be raised. A more plant-based diet could relieve the pressure on the soil, improve animal welfare and also feed significantly more people.



Yes, our agriculture is not sustainable. The Left takes animal welfare and environmental protection seriously, which is why we are in favour of a significant reduction in animal numbers. The CAP must be fundamentally restructured: In future, funds should only be allocated in a way that is orientated towards the common good. Germany in particular is extremely dependent on imports of fruit and vegetables. Massive investment in the cultivation of pulses is needed to secure the supply of vegetable protein. Voluntary conversion and exit programmes from animal husbandry must be developed to give farmers the opportunity to reorient themselves in a self-determined way.



Clarifications

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



We want to increase the supply of plant-based foods from European production, make them more easily accessible and change the EU's food-related funding programmes to make them climate-friendly. That is why we are improving the framework conditions for plant-based foods by promoting research and market introduction, among other things. In order to be better able to deal with future crises, the EU needs a protein strategy with efficient authorisation procedures that increase the level of self-sufficiency in vegetables, nuts and plant proteins.



The SPD is committed to sustainable animal husbandry and sustainable meat consumption. meat consumption. We want to limit the environmental and climate impact of factory farming in Germany and make agriculture sustainable so that we can pave the way for an agriculture that is fit for grandchildren. The cultivation of consumer legumes should be supported at all levels. The European Union has a huge supply gap due to the high livestock population – around 80 % of protein crop requirements have to be imported. Measures should therefore be taken as quickly as possible to replace this often genetically modified and environmentally harmful protein import and to reduce livestock numbers in the EU. We reject binding EU targets to increase consumption.



We see a great need to focus more on conventional breeding methods in research again, for example in the area of oil and protein crops. The transfer of knowledge from research to agricultural practice must also be faster and more targeted.



Protein is a basic building block of our diet. However, we are not dependent on a specific source of protein, but on its components, the so-called amino acids. It is particularly important to ensure that all essential amino acids are included in the diet. From an ecological and animal ethical point of view, the consumption of vegetable protein is superior to animal protein. We therefore expressly support the intention to increase the consumption of plant-based protein by means of binding EU targets.



Consumption is primarily determined by consumers. Binding targets for per capita consumption are difficult to realise. However, we are committed to promoting the consumption of plant-based protein, for example by creating an attractive and favourable pricing policy for plant-based alternatives.



Protein-rich plants are of great importance for improving food security and sustainability. In October 2023, the MEPs of the ÖDP – the Nature Conservation Party voted in favour of a strategy to promote special funds for plant proteins and programmes to promote the cultivation of legumes and diversify the types of protein produced by a majority of 305 to 109 votes in the European Parliament. MEPs also call for more research and development in the field of plant proteins.



Yes, we are in favour of extending agricultural premiums for the planting of pulses, promoting their consumption and upgrading soils. This is part of a protein strategy and a sustainable arable farming concept.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



We focus on a plant-based diet and conscious consumption of meat from organic livestock farming.



The SPD is a party of progress. We want to promote innovation and research in Europe. As these are industrial products, public funding through the Common Agricultural Policy should be viewed critically.



We also apply the precautionary principle to the introduction of so-called in-vitro meat. If all standards are met, there is nothing to prevent it from being placed on the market.



In principle, such products have the potential to enormously reduce animal suffering (as well as water, resources, land and CO2 emissions). However, as things stand at present, so-called in-vitro meat is not free from animal suffering. Animal experiments are used for research, stem cells are taken from living animals and cell growth is controlled by foetal calf serum. Research therefore urgently needs to be adapted. In the future, production must be further developed so that it is completely animal-free. However, such products still represent an improvement on the current situation.



We want to see an increase in funding for research and the development of healthy plant-based alternatives, as this sector is still largely underfunded compared to animal-based alternatives.



It would be nice if cultured meat could solve all the problems associated with industrial factory farming. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. So-called laboratory meat or meat from cell cultures (cultured meat) is currently not a safe alternative. This is because the production process for lab-grown meat is associated with considerable difficulties. It requires the removal of muscle tissue from a living animal in order to obtain living stem cells. As this has to be done regularly, new ethical and animal welfare issues arise. The need to use synthetic hormones to propagate the cells is also a problem, as the use of hormones is rightly not permitted in the European Union. In addition, the technologies used to produce artificial meat are subject to patent rights, meaning that production will be concentrated in a small number of companies. Another problem with the production of laboratory meat is the possibility of contamination with pathogenic bacteria, viruses or fungal spores. For this reason, antibiotics and fungicides may be required in the culture medium. The lack of in-depth research in connection with the hazard and risk analysis of laboratory meat therefore does not allow this type of meat production to be endorsed at the present time.



The Left is fundamentally in favour of more research to ensure the human right to adequate food in the future.

Clarifications

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



We want to increase the supply of plant-based foods from European production, make them more easily accessible and change the EU's food-related funding programmes to make them climate-friendly. That is why we are improving the framework conditions for plant-based foods by promoting research and market introduction, among other things. In order to be better able to deal with future crises, the EU needs a protein strategy with efficient authorisation procedures that increase the level of self-sufficiency in vegetables, nuts and plant proteins.



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Yes, we are in favour of extending agricultural premiums for the planting of pulses, promoting their consumption and upgrading soils. This is part of a protein strategy and a sustainable arable farming concept.

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



We Greens support the polluter pays principle and call for it to be consistently applied to the agricultural sector and for the focus to be placed on pollution, particularly from harmful substances. We want stricter emission limits for industrial livestock systems such as pigs and poultry. Emission reductions for farms should also be rewarded via the common good premium of the Common Agricultural Policy and by increasing the proportion of grassland.



Every sector must play its part in the fight against climate change. This also includes European agriculture. We are therefore in favour of applying the polluter pays principle.



First and foremost, farmers should ensure food security with healthy, high-quality food. In addition to this main task, local agriculture also fulfils a number of other vital services for our community. Without a diverse agricultural sector, the cultural landscapes that have been created over generations and that make our homeland so worth living in cannot be preserved. These special social services, especially in structurally disadvantaged areas, must be appropriately honoured by the EU in the future.



Agriculture is one of the most climate-damaging sectors, so the incentive of an emissions trading system can have a positive effect. However, care must be taken to ensure that the purchase of corresponding certificates does not ensure that environmentally harmful behaviour can be compensated for and that the operation is still particularly lucrative. The advantages in favour of organic plant-based agriculture must outweigh the disadvantages in order to ensure a sustainable agricultural transition.



We are in favour of taxing agricultural emissions from livestock farming and land use at source, as they are local and fragmented. Other non-sector-specific emissions in the agricultural sector (such as electricity and tractor fuels) should be covered under the ETS. This takes place in processing or with consumers. Furthermore, we are in favour of extending the ETS system to livestock farming, as pollution from this sector must also be taken into account, and in favour of extending the Industrial Emissions Directive to all types of industrial livestock farming. This refers to farms that keep a number of animals considered relevant by science.



Clarifications



Agriculture is one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. That is why we need sustainable agriculture with significantly reduced emissions. Animal husbandry in particular produces many harmful greenhouse gases. Reduced meat consumption and a more plant-based diet could significantly reduce emissions. Policymakers can promote change by applying the polluter pays principle. EU emissions trading should be extended to other sectors, e.g. meat-based foods.



It is time to radically change the agricultural system. Of course, the producers of climate-damaging greenhouse gases in particular must be held accountable for reducing them. However, it is important to look at what is being produced and for whom. The aim must be to create a European agriculture based on solidarity, in which sufficient nutrients are produced, food is affordable and locally accessible and climate targets are met. We take a critical view of emissions trading systems: for example, they do not differentiate between production to fulfil basic needs and luxury goods. Farmers must also be able to make a living from producing food. The costs must be covered by producer prices. There are already enormous problems here, as the farmers' protests clearly show.

PORTUGAL

a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?

c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?

d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?

f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?

h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



PAN – Pessoas – Animais – Natureza



Volt Portugal



LIVRE



Bloco de Esquerda



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER

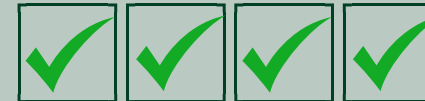
OTHER COUNTRIES



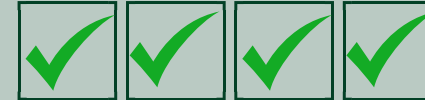
i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



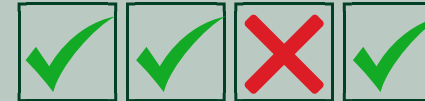
j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



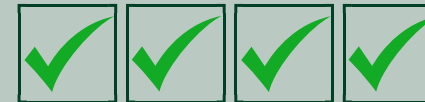
k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?



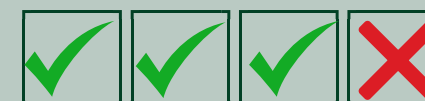
n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Clarifications

b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



Reducing GHG targets for 2040 is now a recommendation and therefore not legally binding. The next Commission will be responsible for publishing the law, which Parliament will have the role of adopting as co-legislator. LIVRE will fight for a reduction of these targets of more than 90%, something that the European Environmental Agency does not consider possible to achieve with current projections. LIVRE is and will always be, like the European Greens, on the side of farmers. We reject the idea that their just demands are incompatible with greater ecological ambitions. The EU can and must do more to guarantee a fair CAP that is integrated with other ecological policies, in order to ensure biodiversity, food security and the fight against climate change.

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



LIVRE knows that there are foods, such as products of animal origin, that have particularly high environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions. LIVRE is a party that seeks to anchor its political action in scientific knowledge, and the literature is clear: reducing the consumption of protein of animal origin is one of the individual behaviors that can do the most to mitigate climate change. Our country, in particular, could be self-sufficient in the production of legumes – sources of protein that, in addition to not requiring nitrogen fertilizers, have relatively low other agronomic requirements and also have, in the context of a balanced diet, significant health benefits.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



LIVRE recognizes that agriculture is at the center of human action directly linked to the Environment. This is why we defend an integrated agricultural policy, a policy that guarantees, among others, the protection of biodiversity, sustainable food production, decent remuneration for farmers and the transition to precision agriculture. It is possible to have a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that meets the needs of Europeans. We can fight, simultaneously, for the preservation of the environment, against climate change and for food resilience that also creates food security for the European Union. The laws adopted are crucial: both the Climate Law and the Soil Restoration Law. However, this Common Agricultural Policy – largely defined by a centre-right coalition and which did not receive a vote from the Green Group in Parliament – does not respond to the environmental, ecological and social needs of our time. We will always defend a CAP that promotes access to funds for small and medium-sized farmers, to the detriment of the huge groups in the agri-food industry that, due to their size, are able to absorb the majority of funds. We cannot continue to live below planetary limits: LIVRE will fight, in the next Parliament, for more ambition, for a more ecological and fair CAP and for better conditions for all workers.

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



LIVRE advocates a program to promote healthy eating in the school context, with a view to supporting a change in our consumption behaviors, in general, and food, in particular, to reduce environmental impacts and be a foundation of a strategy of public health.

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?

NOT APPLICABLE

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Bloco de Esquerda understands that greenhouse gas emissions must be limited in other ways. The polluter pays principle has the perverse effect of allowing and legitimizing companies with greater financial resources to continue polluting whatever they want.

OTHER COUNTRIES



a. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve human health in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



b. Does your party support the implementation of binding targets to improve the environmental and climate impact in the CAP and/or its National Strategic Plans?



c. Does your party recognise plant-based diets as an essential tool to achieve climate targets?



d. Does your party support the establishment of binding targets to increase the proportion of healthy and sustainable food in supermarket sales?



e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



f. Does your party support a shift in funding within investment and R&I programmes to prioritise scaling up the production of sustainable plant-based whole foods as well as plant-based alternatives?



g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



h. Does your party support the implementation of EU binding targets to increase plant protein consumption?



YES



NO



NO POSITION/
OTHER



DID NOT
ANSWER



Polska 2050 Szymona Hołowni (Poland)



Partido Animalista Con el Medio
Ambiente (Spain)



The following section includes the answers provided by parties from further EU member states, but which, due to a low response rate have here been added together. This will regularly be updated.

OTHER COUNTRIES



i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



j. Would your party support the development of an EU-wide Plant-Based Action Plan and/or Fund to increase R&D, production and consumption of plant-based and alternative proteins ? (Such as the one developed in Denmark).



k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?



n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?





Clarifications

e. Does your party support shifting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies away from the livestock sector to whole foods, plant-based products as well as plant-based alternatives for human consumption?



With a question posed in this way, it is impossible to answer. We do not exclude supporting such a solution, but it would depend on the totality of the proposed changes to the CAP.



Absolutely. Currently, at least in Spain, these subsidies are encouraging extremely harmful behaviour and practices by livestock farmers, who raze forests to build pastures that meet the requirements to granting of subsidies.

g. Does your party support a policy shift within the CAP from primarily economic goals to more of an environmental and health policy focus?



We believe that the economic objectives of the CAP are as important as those of the environment and health, and that priorities should not be redirected clearly in either direction, but should be equal.

i. Does your party support the development of products derived from cells or fermentation processes to replicate animal products, for example cultivated meat?



We consider it positive, although not indispensable, due to the fact that plant-based food is perfectly viable for human beings at any stage of life. However, it would be a good way of attracting a new public that would eventually replace meat products, in whole or in part, with these new alternatives, with the benefits that this entails.

k. Does your party support the mandatory inclusion of a daily, fully plant-based meal in all public canteens?



Of course. It is a measure that we have long included in our electoral programmes.

l. Does your party support the inclusion of plant-based milk alternatives in schools as an addition to current milk and fruit programmes?



This should be up to the schools to decide.

m. Does your party believe plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy foods should be allowed to keep/adopt/use informative denominations such as “plant-based sausage” or “soy milk”?



For the Polish version of the questionnaire, a modified set of questions was employed. Notably, in question 16, the response marked as option b) was: "Maintain status quo—retain restrictions on the nomenclature for plant-based dairy alternatives, and do not impose restrictions on the nomenclature for plant-based meat alternatives.". Please note that the rationale behind this position was originally articulated in Polish and subsequently translated into English by ProVeg. This detail is noteworthy in the event of any discrepancies noted between the Polish and English versions of the text.



Yes, the veto is a whim of the livestock sector, which is afraid of losing ground. These products are so named because of their shape, texture and taste, which can also be achieved in their vegetable versions. As long as the main and secondary ingredients are clearly specified, the name of the product should be able to stand regardless of its origin.

Clarifications

n. Does your party support an equal Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for both plant-based and animal-sourced foods (for example, plant-based milk alternatives and milk, or plant-based and animal-based burgers)?



For the questionnaire tailored to Poland, an adapted set of questions was used. Specifically, in question n, the response selected as option b) was: "The VAT rate for plant-based alternatives should be the same as the VAT rate for animal-based foods."



We believe that animal products have a much higher environmental, ethical and social cost, therefore their consumption should also have a higher economic cost.

o. Would your party support a lower Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for plant-based alternatives than animal-based foods?



For the Polish adaptation of the questionnaire, a distinct approach to the questions was developed. In particular, for question 2, which asked, "Would your party support a reduction in the rate of value added tax (VAT) for unprocessed products of plant origin (e.g., vegetables, fruit, pulses) and preparations based on these products?", the response indicated as "No position/other" included a comment stating: "Yes, with the condition from the first question."

p. Does your party support the application of the polluter-pays principle to the agriculture sector? For example within a system similar to an Emission Trading System (ETS), a carbon tax on all greenhouse gas emissions or other?



Yes, as both a punitive and a deterrent measure.



EUROPEAN VEGETARIAN UNION

#EU
2024

THE PLANT-BASED MANIFESTO

EUROPEAN VEGETARIAN UNION
MANIFESTO FOR THE 2024 EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS



The Plant-Based Manifesto

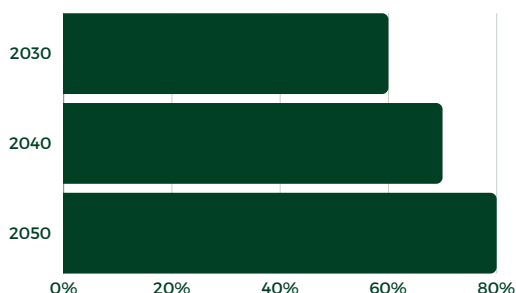
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Read the full
Manifesto at:
www.euroveg.eu/the-plant-based-manifesto/



The 2024 European elections and mandate are pivotal to achieving the 2030 targets of the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim of this manifesto is to address newly elected officials who will take office in the upcoming 2024 term. Elected representatives must design and implement measures to protect people, animals, and nature. Current EU efforts fall short of effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and threaten to put the climate and biodiversity SDGs out of reach. Elected officials must show leadership, driving ambitious action for a sustainable future in all EU states.

Here are the core policy actions that are needed:



1. Set successive targets to increase the total share of plant protein in European Diets to 60% by 2030, 70% by 2040 and 80% by 2050

+ Ensure policy coherence and coordination between files and institutions around agreed targets

2. Make sustainable and healthy food accessible and affordable

- Transform the **Common Agricultural Policy** into a **One Health-based policy**, emphasising sustainable production and promoting healthy diets.
- Ensure equitable fiscal policy by standardising **EU VAT rates for plant-based and animal foods**, with Member States urged to apply lower or 0% rates to whole plant-based foods, fostering health and sustainability.
- Develop an effective **carbon pricing mechanism** for agriculture, especially for animal products that cause the largest proportion of environmental impacts.
- Within investment and R&I programmes, shift funding to **prioritise scaling up sustainable plant-based products**.

3. Adopt an ambitious Sustainable Food Systems Framework (SFSF) that:

Sets an **ambitious definition** of sustainable food systems.

Regulates advertising of unhealthy, carbon-intensive foods, **making sustainability-related information more accessible** to consumers and limiting the promotion of these items.



Paves the ground for a **transformation of food environments**, highlighting the role of plant-based foods in public procurement.

Recognises retailers as a bottleneck to sustainable food systems and aims to establish national-level targets for **increasing the share of supermarket sales originating from healthy and sustainable food sources**.

Ensures that the plant-based food sector can develop on a level playing field and is not hindered by **conflicting national labelling and denomination rules**.

4. Ensure a just transition when promoting the production of sustainable and healthy food



EMPOWERING EU POLICY FOR PLANT-BASED TRANSFORMATION

Why are EU policies not working for sustainable food systems?

- Reports indicate adverse effects on environment and health.
- Current policy is fuelling dietary imbalances and excessive meat consumption.
- Food contributes most to citizens' ecological footprint due to high meat intake.
- Meat production is up 80% while production of plant proteins like pulses has declined since the 1960s.
- EU agricultural sector doesn't follow polluter-pays principle already applied in other sectors to improve sustainability.

We believe that plant-based diets present a solution to our defective food systems because:

- Transitioning towards plant-based diets is key for climate change mitigation, health, and food security and agricultural resilience.
- Dietary shifts are recognised by EU strategies (Farm to Fork, Biodiversity, Beating Cancer, Drivers of Food Security).
- Dietary shifts are supported by the 2023 Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA).



Sound policy based on sound evidence

Find our full references in the scientific-based manifesto available at the end of the document



The EVU is the umbrella organisation of 46 associations representing plant-based interests across Europe

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