



## “Farm to Fork” strategy — the European path to climate neutrality

International cooperation is essential in the face of advancing climate change and the environmental challenges faced by mankind. The EU Parliament has therefore taken steps towards the ecological transformation, the program of which has been known as the European Green Deal since December 2019. One of the fundamental elements of building climate neutrality in the region is the adoption of a fair, environmentally friendly strategy in the food sector. **“Farm to Fork”** is an initiative of the European Commission to provide wholesome, affordable food products, with fair remuneration in the structures of the supply chain.

The plan for implementing this policy envisages a transformation of the way food is produced, including the introduction of regulations to reduce the amount of pesticides and artificial fertilizers used by 50%. Thanks to the improvement of the monitoring process of their use and the introduction of appropriate regulations, the protection of pollinating insects and biodiversity will increase. The changes also concern transformations in the way animals are farmed, consisting in the reduction of the antibiotics used by half. **“Farm to Fork”** is a new food safety policy under the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy, covering all stages of production. EU law norms regarding production standards guarantee high-quality food in the EU. The restrictive requirements that products must meet before they are placed on store shelves allow the positive opinion that European meat processing has enjoyed in the world for a long time to be maintained. The “zero tolerance” strategy for unregistered farms that the EU is implementing demonstrates the credibility of products imported from its territory as being as described, respecting animal welfare and environmental protection. Thanks to the **“Farm to Fork”** policy, we have the possibility to trace the entire production process of meat products, including the sources of feed origin, or any veterinary procedures applied, in Europe. Improved animal tagging in the EU allows the consumer to obtain accurate information and, therefore, to make even more informed choices while shopping<sup>1</sup>. As part of the strategic action in the EU, co-financing will be granted for the modernization of the agricultural and livestock sector, also to smaller farms, which, in addition to a positive social impact, will bring progress in the development of infrastructure necessary to conduct agricultural production with respect for the natural environment. Europe is increasingly turning to biologically harmless agriculture and is committed to devoting 25% of its total agricultural land to organic farming by 2030<sup>2</sup>. Financial support for EU producers is also associated with shortening the supply chain, thus reducing the carbon footprint and negative impact on the climate.

The strategy for sustainable agricultural production also aims to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, through preventive measures such as tightening the current EU Emissions Trading Scheme and increasing the amount of renewable energy used<sup>3</sup>. An important role in this process is the appropriate utilization of agricultural waste or municipal waste, which, when

<sup>1</sup>[www.meatfromeurope.eu/pl/europejskie-standardy/od-pola-do-stolu/](http://www.meatfromeurope.eu/pl/europejskie-standardy/od-pola-do-stolu/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/pl/policies/from-farm-to-fork/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/press-room/20211014IPR14914/nowa-strategia-od-pola-do-stolu-zapewni-nam-lepsza-zywnosc>





used in biorefineries, can be used as bio-fertilizers, protein feed or bioenergy (biogas). Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that agriculture contributes to the emission of methane and nitrous oxide to the atmosphere to a small extent (10.3%), of which animal husbandry is responsible for about 70%<sup>4</sup>. The key to reducing the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere is therefore the introduction of restrictions on the production of feed from genetically modified soybeans imported into the EU and the long-distance transport of animals in order to reduce these processes to zero in the long run.

Sustainable food production and systemic changes are one thing. However, building responsible consumer attitudes is an equally important matter. For this reason, the “Farm to Fork” policy is also an information and promotion campaign aimed at reducing food waste, encouraging sustainable nutrition and taking into account environmental factors when making food purchases, which is to facilitate the transfer of nutrition labels to the front packaging with a mandatory indication of the origin of selected products. The creation of rational dietary patterns, based mainly on unprocessed and high-quality products, in society is to contribute to preventing the increase in the number of people suffering from cancer and the obesity rate in order to avoid it exceeding its critical value by 2030. Dissemination of information on animal production and processing meat, along with the aspect of their quality, is implemented in the EU through educational spots and projects in social media channels, such as, for example, Akademia Wiedzy o Mięsie (Academy of Knowledge on Meat)<sup>5</sup>. The idea behind the campaign is to build a positive image of poultry and beef, taking into account the nutritional value they provide and the benefits of deliberately choosing meat products from known sources. The increase in the popularity of environmentally friendly agriculture and a social change in the approach to food shopping, oriented towards the quality sources of food, are aimed to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030<sup>6</sup>.

In activities for ecology, cooperation on a global scale is the most important matter, therefore the sustainable rules of international trade are as important as local activities. The promotion of sustainable food system solutions, including the dissemination of alternative plant protection products and the reduction of pesticide use, effective labelling of packaging and regulation of global standards for carbon footprint emissions are among the main areas of interest of the European Commission<sup>7</sup>. “Farm to Fork” could be the beginning of a path leading to a new balance in the global food chain.

<sup>4</sup> <https://koalicjazywaziemia.pl/2020/06/05/co-proponuje-nam-strategia-od-pola-do-stolu-czesc-i/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.upemi.pl/kampanie/1439/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-05/f2f\\_action-plan\\_2020\\_strategy-info\\_en.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-05/f2f_action-plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020-05/f2f\\_action-plan\\_2020\\_strategy-info\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2020-05/f2f_action-plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf)

