

ESDN Conference 2020: The European Green Deal: Our Pact for the Future

Summary of Breakout Groups

Sustainable Food: Farm to Fork Strategy

The second breakout group was moderated by conference moderator **Peter Woodward**. Breakout group participants first discussed the positives of the new **farm-to-fork strategy (F2F)**. The strategy is a remarkable first step towards the needed transformations of food systems. It includes an **integrated perspective from production to consumption and sets ambitious quantitative targets** (e.g. regarding pesticides, nitrates, antimicrobials, organic farming). However, **policy coherence and ambitious implementation are the key to creating positive lasting impacts in the food system**. For this, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) needs to deliver on the targets of the F2F and it needs the buy-in of Member States and the European Parliament. The issue of animal consumption is very vague in the F2F. **The need to reduce the consumption of animal products is not mentioned**. In addition, the F2F pays too little attention to the potential of cities and regions and regional food systems.

Regarding concrete steps moving forward, participants concluded that governance and participation are crucial. There needs to be **equal participation of stakeholders and decisions on the future of the CAP need to be taken together**. **Cities and regions need to be better integrated into the process**. Also, the countries need to set up **national strategies** for sustainable and healthy food.