



Mr. Christophe Hansen
Commissioner for Agriculture and Food
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

The Hague, 9 December 2024

Dear Commissioner Hansen,

We wish to congratulate you on your appointment as EC Commissioner for Agriculture and Food. At a time when we are confronted with interwoven, multi-faceted crises, citizens, farmers, entrepreneurs, retailers, supermarkets and other stakeholders are placing their hope in your policy to guide Europe towards a sustainable, fair and healthy food system.

We would like to introduce ourselves to you by sending you the Manifesto of the Food Voices Coalition in which we explain what we stand for. As a young coalition of organizations in different countries of Europe (France, Poland, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain, as well as UK), we work to bring forward the voices of citizens on food. Many people live in situations where the food environment is poor or where healthy food is not affordable. Food is a human right and should be healthy, accessible and affordable to all people, as well as taking care of animal welfare and be produced and distributed within planetary boundaries.

We are asking you to listen to the voices of citizens who are expressing their concerns in the light of alarming data regarding health, increasing poverty, and the growing impact of natural disasters caused by climate change. Inspired by the European Strategic Dialogue, we urge you to continue with inclusive dialogue and broad cooperation between stakeholders in the whole food chain and to establish structures with impact to strengthen the regulations on sustainable food systems.

Several organisations within the Food Voices Coalition are members of the Food Policy Coalition and BEUC and we fully endorse their recommendations. The uniqueness of our Food Voices Coalition is that we listen to the voices of people, and therefore we would like to bring our own recommendations and hopes to the Vision of Agriculture & Food that you are going to develop within the first hundred days in your new function.

Supply of food is dominantly through supermarkets, and they are playing an important role in the food chain. It is the place where most of the citizens buy their food. People think they have a choice, and are blamed for making unhealthy choices, although majority of the supply in supermarkets is not healthy, nor sustainably, produced. Through our work at the local level, we know what is at stake for people living in deprived areas, who have no access to healthy food

and the severe impact it has on their [lives](#). There are many young people without enough knowledge about their food to make informed choices. More and more people are looking for alternative ways of getting affordable, fresh and healthy food, produced by regional farmers. Food policy councils are spreading all over Europe as an expression that urgent measures are needed to improve the food system.

Although we focus on specific topics in our call to action in our Manifesto, many more suggestions and recommendations follow from our work at the local level. We would appreciate it very much if we had the opportunity to have a meeting with you, in the hope that you could include some of our recommendations in your Vision for Agriculture & Food.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

On behalf of the Food Voices Coalition,



Frank Mechielsen, director Feedback Europe, the Netherlands

Anna Spurek, director Green REV Institute, Poland

Morgane Créach, director general CAN France

David Sanchez, director CECU, Spain

Daniele Caucci, co-director Terra!, Italy

Jessica Sinclair Taylor, deputy-director Feedback Global UK