



Horizon Europe

‘Food for Life’ ETP and “National Food Technology Platforms” NFTPs statement to DG RTD as agreed unanimously at the ETP-NFTPs meeting the 16th of December 2020

The ETP ‘Food for Life’ is an industry-led stakeholder platform recognised by the European Commission as a key actor in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness in the food sector through the development of research and innovation agendas for action at EU level.

The 36 National Food Technology Platforms NFTPs have the same objectives as the ETP ‘Food for Life’ at National level, bringing together the key actors in industry and research including Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and local actors that usually are not in direct contact with EU Research and Innovation policies. Jointly, we call on the European Commission and Member States to support R&I for the agri-food sector at all levels (EU, regional and national) through a comprehensive program in Horizon Europe and the Member States, taking into account the recommendations outlined in the fully aligned strategic documents of the ETP ‘Food for Life’ and the NFTPs.

The food sector is crucial to enacting (or effecting) a successful response to key societal challenges such as the need for sustainable food systems, food security, food safety, healthy nutrition and consumer lifestyles, that all have to be addressed as also indicated in the ‘Green Deal’ and ‘Farm to Fork’ strategies of the European Commission. We, the European Technology Platform (ETP) ‘Food for Life’, and the National Food Technology Platforms (NFTPs), as major stakeholders of the agri-food sector strongly recommend coordinated actions at national, regional and European levels, addressing more significantly the following areas:

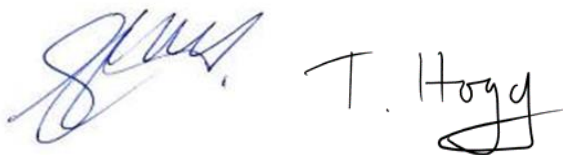
- To highlight the role of the food industry to maximise the impact of R&I actions, including the collaboration between Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, large companies, academia and research centres;
- To consider the consumer as central to the priorities of R&I strategies, with the objective of increasing the level of trust and engagement of consumers, and of meeting consumers' needs and requirements for a healthy and sustainable diet, taking into account culinary traditions and cultural preferences and territorial vocations;
- To future proof our farming and food processing and distribution in the context of climate change and of safeguarded biodiversity, and to increase circularity, natural resources management and energy efficiency whilst considering all the possible trade-offs and balancing the environmental, social and economic sustainability factors;
- To establish a governance model where business culture is key, striving for timely commercial exploitation to be a crucial factor for funding R&I project proposals. The outcomes from projects

need to be demonstrated and replicated so they can be effectively transferred and scaled up to real practical solutions;

- To set a supportive, competitive and fair regulatory framework that allows a faster ‘time to market’ of European innovations and novel foods and ingredients, ensuring safety and sustainability of the new products but also ensuring a swift and agile process that allows to compete globally;
- To support public-private partnerships at regional, national and EU level and to establish a strong link among the relevant partners at the various geographical, sectorial, dimensional and disciplinary levels. This is crucial to maximise the R&I investment into tangible solutions that can be measured at short, medium and long term.

We, the ETP ‘Food for Life’ and “National Food Technology Platforms” NFTP are entirely at the European Commission’s disposal to collaborate and identify priorities, topics and tools to better involve the food industry at the different levels (local, regional, national and European) in the next Horizon Europe programmes.

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Gert Meijer and Tim Hogg in blue ink.

Gert Meijer and Tim Hogg

Chair and Vice-Chair of the
ETP ‘Food for Life’

Handwritten signatures of Daniele Rossi and András Sebok in blue ink. The name 'Daniele Rossi' is printed above the signature.

Daniele Rossi and András Sebok

European Coordination of the National Food
Technology Platforms