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Animals



Food Security Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism (EFSCM) The role of veterinarians

Maurizio Ferri

FVE delegate at EFSCM

FVE Webinar Veterinary Contributions to Food Security and Tackling Misinformation in
Crisis Preparedness

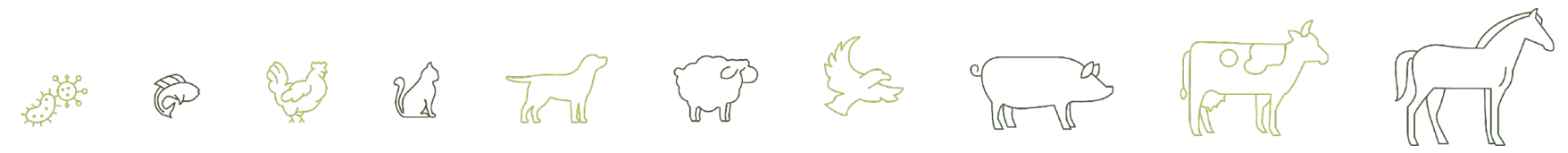
January 16th 2026





A new risk landscape for EU food supply and security

- Dependencies and vulnerabilities of EU food supply chains
- The complexity of food supply chains, intertwined with other industrial ecosystems such as transport and energy, is complicating the ability to react to crisis situations.
- There is need of better coordination and improvement of contingency planning
- To avoid repeating the COVID-19 experience where coordination measures at EU level had to be taken on an ad hoc basis and developed on the spot.



EFSCM: Why?

EFSCM to make the EU food system more resilient to crises like pandemics (e.g., COVID-19) or geopolitical disruptions (e.g., the war in Ukraine).

November 2021

Communication on contingency plan to ensure food supply and food security in times of crisis

Creation of the Food Security Crisis Preparedness and Response Mechanism (EFSCM) to improve coordination between the public and private sectors in crisis time and evaluate the risks

March 2022

Communication Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems.



Brussels, 23.3.2022
COM(2022) 133 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

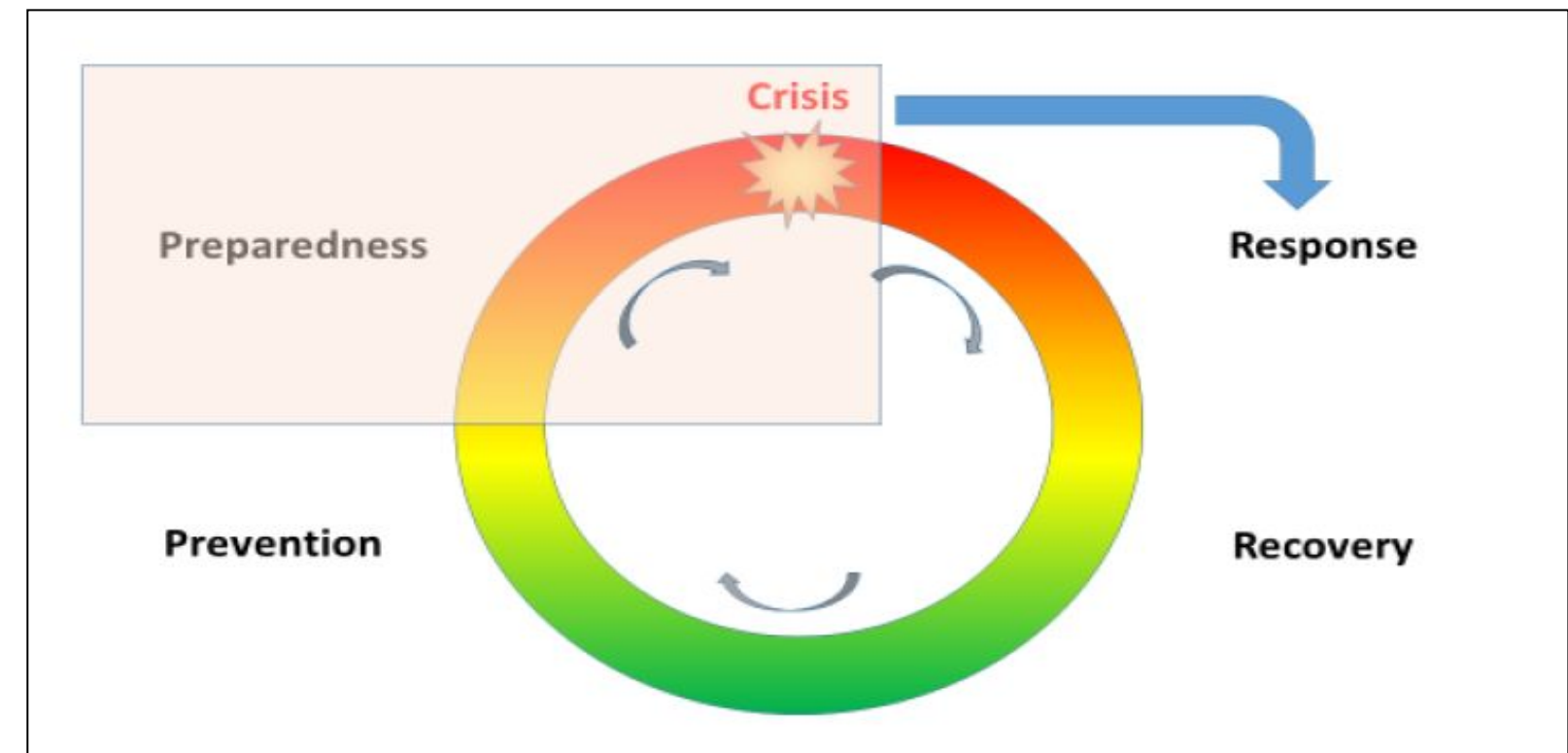
Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems



EU Contingency Plan for Food Security

- Disaster cycle used in crisis management

- Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



- Contingency planning (CP)

- Focus on preparedness phase
- Identifying the hazards to support to actors in charge of responding to the crisis
- Will cover the whole food system starting from inputs up to the delivery of food to consumers through retail or food services.

Resilience



Definitions

- **Risk**
 - is an uncertain circumstance that can result in negative consequences for a potential outcome, and involves a **potential impact** and a certain **likelihood of occurrence**.
- **Vulnerability**
 - (in)capacity to respond to the negative impacts deriving from risks. The more vulnerability the less resilience.
- **Food supply**
 - is about the **availability of food** (enough produced, stocked, and traded)
- **Food security**
 - a broader concept ensuring **everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food** for a healthy life, encompassing availability, access, utilization, and stability.



EFSCM – Structure

- It operates through a dedicated Expert Group such as representatives from MS and key private sector stakeholders (ex. NGOs) across the food supply chain, coordinated by the Commission.
- *Ad hoc* meetings or regulars meeting.
- Trigger: it is activated in case of exceptional, unpredictable, and large-scale events or risks that could seriously threaten EU food supply or security.



EFSCM & FVE

- Since 2023 FVE is member of the EFSCM as Professional Association
- Veterinarians are not just clinicians

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Euroseeds (Euroseeds) | Trade and business associations | European | Member |
| Fédération Européenne des Fabricants d'Aliments Composés (FEFAC) | Trade and business associations | European | Member |
| Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire (FESASS) | Trade and business associations | European | Observer |
| Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) | Trade and business associations | European | Member |
| Federation of European Tank Storage Associations (FETSA) | Trade and business associations | European | Observer |
| Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) | Professionals' Associations | European | Member |
| Fertilizers Europe | Trade and business associations | European | Member |
| FoodDrinkEurope (FoodDrinkEurope) | Trade and business associations | European | Member |



EFSCM objectives

- In case of a transnational crisis, the EFSCM involving Member States, public and private actors involved in the response will be coordinated by the Commission
- Coordination of actions adopted at national and EU-level
- Collaborative approach
- Enhanced resilience of the EU food supply chain, which means the ability to mitigate the impact of emergency events



EFSCM – Activity

- Contingency Action Plan

- 3 sub-groups to develop recommendations on:

- Improving the diversity of sources of supply
 - diversify domestic production
 - trade
 - diversify consumption

- Crisis communication guidelines on food supply and security

- Mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in the food supply chain

RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE DIVERSITY OF SOURCES OF SUPPLY, AMONG OTHERS BETWEEN SHORTER AND LONGER FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

EUROPEAN FOOD SECURITY CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (EFSCM)

RECOMMENDATIONS
GUIDELINES FOR CRISIS COMMUNICATION ON FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD SECURITY

EUROPEAN FOOD SECURITY CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (EFSCM)

RECOMMENDATIONS
ON WAYS TO MITIGATE RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES, INCLUDING
STRUCTURAL ISSUES PUTTING AT RISK FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

EUROPEAN FOOD SECURITY CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (EFSCM)



EFSCM – Tools

- Foresight tools to enhance the preparedness and leveraging available data
 - Dashboard for monitoring food supply and security
 - Risk Assessment: mapping risks and vulnerabilities in the EU food supply chain
 - **Recommendations:** developing and adopting recommendations on issues like crisis communication, diversification of supply sources, and mitigating risks.





Dashboard for monitoring food supply and security

Using dashboards and observatories to track essential indicators (e.g., stocks, seeds, fertilizers).

<https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/data-portal/food-supply-security.html>

European Commission

Home > Agriculture and rural development > Data and analysis > Agri-food data portal > Food supply and security > Monitoring

Monitoring

Datasets covering topics related to food supply and food security, updated with an annual or lower frequency.

Monitoring

Selected datasets provide recent data on food supply and food security to allow users monitor these issues in a timely manner. Their selection was made based on the input provided by experts (both national and sectorial) who are members of European Food Security Crisis Mechanism expert group. More information on roles and functioning of this group could be found [here](#).

European Commission | Food Security | Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

SELECT INDICATOR: Consumer Food Inflation Snapshot

Annual inflation rate comparing February 2023 with February 2022

| Member State | General inflation | Food | Bread and cereals | Meat | Fish and seafood | Milk, cheese and eggs | Oils and fats | Fruit | Vegetables |
|----------------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|------------|
| European Union | 9.9 | 19.5 | 20.8 | 17.3 | 14.6 | 28.4 | 27.2 | 10.0 | 19.1 |
| Euro area | 8.5 | 17.7 | 19.0 | 15.5 | 13.5 | 26.2 | 27.8 | 8.0 | 17.9 |
| Belgium | 5.4 | 19.9 | 21.7 | 16.1 | 16.7 | 30.4 | 30.7 | 11.4 | 22.9 |
| Bulgaria | 13.7 | 25.0 | 17.1 | 27.4 | 17.8 | 38.3 | 17.4 | 7.2 | 17.6 |
| Czechia | 18.4 | 25.2 | 26.4 | 23.2 | 18.1 | 33.5 | 22.9 | 14.4 | 22.3 |
| Denmark | 8.3 | 15.3 | 15.8 | 14.4 | 13.2 | 23.1 | 24.3 | 6.3 | 11.3 |
| Germany | 9.3 | 22.3 | 24.6 | 19.9 | 22.5 | 35.4 | 22.9 | 8.3 | 21.8 |
| Estonia | 17.8 | 25.8 | 29.2 | 28.0 | 26.0 | 20.9 | 14.7 | 18.4 | 26.2 |
| Ireland | 8.1 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 14.4 | 10.5 | 20.4 | 19.7 | 8.6 | 9.3 |
| Greece | 6.5 | 14.7 | 16.9 | 20.0 | 2.5 | 25.2 | 23.0 | -0.2 | 9.3 |
| Spain | 6.0 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 14.0 | 10.9 | 25.3 | 32.9 | 5.8 | 20.4 |
| France | 7.3 | 16.1 | 14.4 | 15.4 | 13.7 | 20.4 | 29.9 | 10.0 | 13.4 |
| Croatia | 11.7 | 17.9 | 26.0 | 14.4 | 14.6 | 25.9 | 5.3 | 7.4 | 10.2 |
| Italy | 9.8 | 13.5 | 16.9 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 19.9 | 29.2 | 5.5 | 10.5 |
| Cyprus | 6.7 | 9.1 | 12.6 | 17.8 | 11.8 | 15.2 | 31.1 | -8.0 | -2.9 |
| Latvia | 20.1 | 25.4 | 30.6 | 23.8 | 23.7 | 24.4 | 22.8 | 18.9 | 21.4 |

European Commission | Food Security | Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

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| Bulgaria | 13.7 | 25.0 | 17.1 | 27.4 | 17.8 | 38.3 | 17.4 | 7.2 | 17.6 |
| Czechia | 18.4 | 25.2 | 26.4 | 23.2 | 18.1 | 33.5 | 22.9 | 14.4 | 22.3 |
| Denmark | 8.3 | 15.3 | 15.8 | 14.4 | 13.2 | 23.1 | 24.3 | 6.3 | 11.3 |
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Pillars for Monitoring EU food supply and security

- Monitoring system (quantitative indicators)



- Alert system



- Qualitative assessment conducted via online questionnaire (two times per year): disruption? more coordination?

Food supply: score 0-10 risk level
 Food security: score 0-10 risk level



Eurostat indicators: e.g. shares of imports of raw materials and agricultural inputs, household food expenditure, food inflation....



External sources: weather monitoring, drought observatory, animal disease outbreaks, food and fertilizers restrictions, food supply (kcal and by protein sources). energy sectors: import dependency, self-sufficiency rates





Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

- Targeted online survey complements the Dashboard on food supply and food security
- Primarily targets stakeholders and their organizations and MS's representatives to contribute on topics affecting both national and EU food security
- Aim is to collect market insights on factors influencing EU food supply and security

Assessment of food security

1. What **factors/drivers/events** which took place during the **last 6 months** affected EU food security and how?

(You could tackle: changes in food supply that impacted the utilisation of food, the availability of sufficient and nutritious food, affordability and access to food, and the stability of food security)

3000 character(s) maximum

EU Survey

Save a backup on your local computer (disable if you are using a public/shared computer)

Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within the framework of the EFSCM

Dear respondent,

as a member of the expert group on the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM), you are invited to provide a qualitative assessment of food supply and food security by replying to the questions of this questionnaire.

Your replies will be used as an input to an overall EU assessment. Results will be anonymised before publication, there will thus be no reference to particular stakeholders, stakeholders' organisations or authorities answers or opinions.

This assessment primarily focuses on stakeholders' organisations, but Member States' representatives are also invited to provide input on issues which have an impact on the overall degree of EU food supply and food security.

Thank you very much for your input.

Information about the respondent

First name and Surname

Organisation/MS/non-EU authority that you represent



Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

- Insights are published by the EU Commission on the EFSCM website along with a qualitative risk assessment based on previous surveys
- Last publication on October 2025

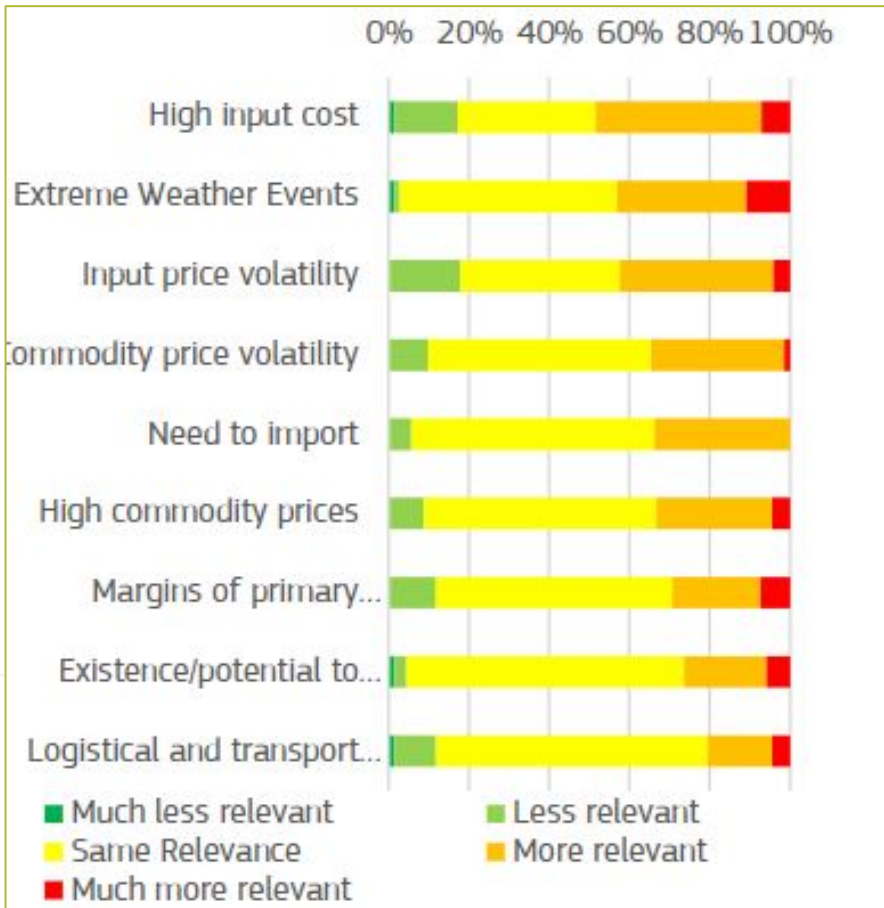




Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security in the EU

- High and volatile input costs and extreme weather events perceived as the most relevant risks for EU food supply in the second half of 2024.



State of Food Security in the EU

A qualitative assessment of food supply and food security in the EU within the framework of the EFSCM

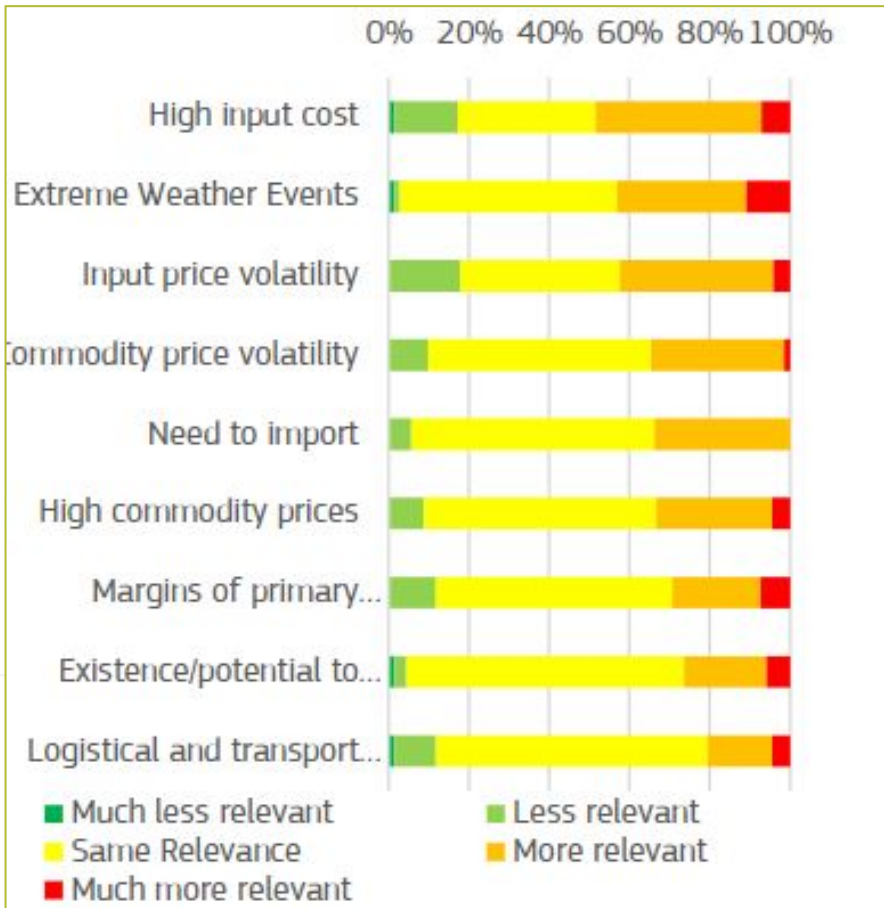


Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security in the EU

- High and volatile input costs and extreme weather events perceived as the most relevant risks for EU food supply in the second half of 2024.

Several respondents confirmed that **climate change** continues to be a significant risk for EU food production, when it comes to the potential deterioration of agricultural yields and the **spread of animal diseases**.



State of Food Security in the EU

A qualitative assessment of food supply and food security in the EU within the framework of the EFSCM

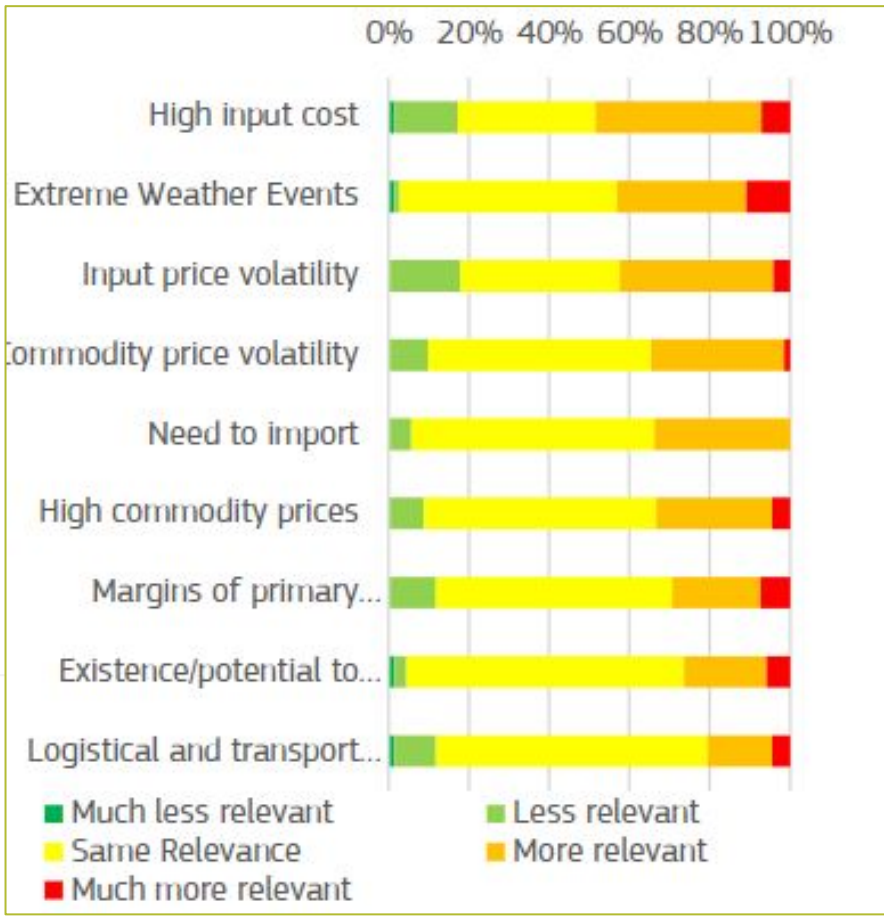


Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security in the EU

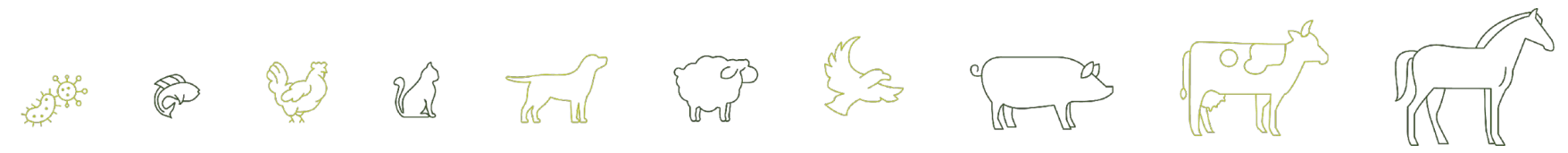
- High and volatile input costs and extreme weather events perceived as the most relevant risks for EU food supply in the second half of 2024.

Aside from geopolitical drivers, climate change and the spread of animal diseases such as avian influenza, bluetongue disease in small ruminants, foot-and-mouth livestock disease and African swine fever can also have significant impacts on commodity prices and volatility.



State of Food Security in the EU

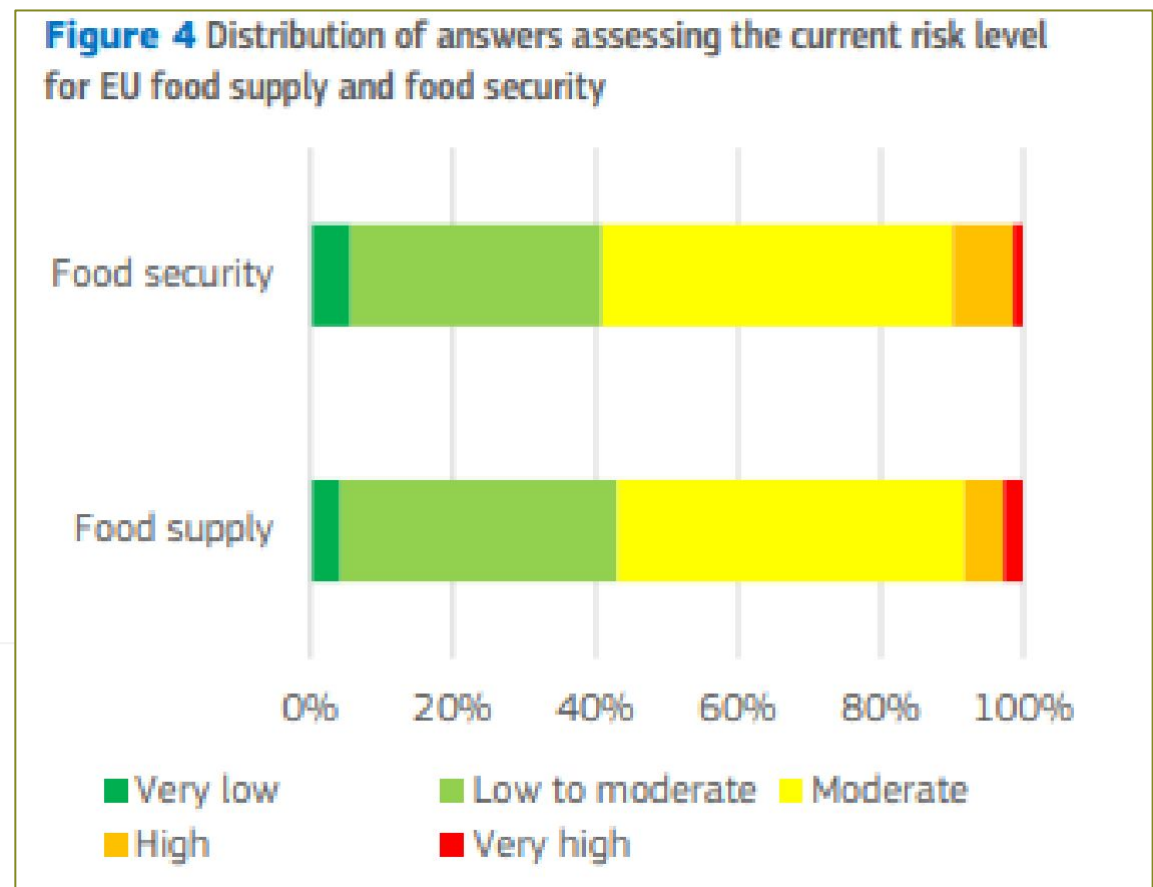
A qualitative assessment of food supply and food security in the EU within the framework of the EFSCM



Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security and food supply in the EU

- EU food supply and food security perceived as in a riskier state than in previous assessment



State of Food Security in the EU

A qualitative assessment of food supply and food security in the EU within the framework of the EFSCM



Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security and food supply in the EU

- Results of the 1st interactive workshop in March- questions for the first half of 2025 focused on the assessment of food supply and food security.
- Members were asked to indicate their **perception of risk relevance for food supply** in that period compared to the preceding one (the second half of 2024)
 - Reliance on import (88%)
 - Logistical and transport bottleneck in the supply chain (80%)
 - Existence potential to find substitutes (79%)
 - **Animal disease (59%)**



Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

State of food security and food supply in the EU

- EFSCM Focus meeting on 23 October members addressed the following survey questions using the SLIDO tool:
 - How do you think that these factors (the one previously identified) could evolve in the next 6 months?
 - What impacts can they have on EU food supply and food security?
 - Are there any new/emerging trends which could represent a potential threat to EU food supply and security until mid 2026?



Qualitative assessment of food supply and food security within EFSCM

- Are there any new/emerging trends which could represent a potential threat to EU food supply and security until mid 2026?
 - With stronger **geopolitical tensions**, there are higher risks of disruption to supply chains and the EU's access to critical commodities, including food and agricultural input, such as fertilizers, energy, and key components for agri-food machinery
 - Recent tension between Russia and neighboring countries might have an impact on food availability within the EU and the trade of animals and animal products
 - **Example in the animal sector**: a negative impact on the control of African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreaks due to the transboundary nature of the disease.



The Role of the Veterinary Profession within EFSCM

| EFSCM Overview | Role of the Veterinary Profession |
|--|---|
| Coordinating mechanism and expert group to prepare for and respond to significant, unpredictable threats to the EU's food supply and security | Key Area: Animal Health and Production |
| Established in 2021 by the EC's Communication on a Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis. | Key Area: Food Safety and Public Health |
| Relies on an expert group for data exchange, risk mapping, vulnerability assessment, and developing recommendations to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities in the food supply chain | Key Area: Crisis Preparedness and One Health |



The Role of the Veterinary Profession within EFSCM

- Veterinarians contribute to food security
 - **Animal Health and Production** are directly linked to food availability:
 - Disease prevention and control
 - Husbandry and welfare
 - Antimicrobial resistance



The Role of the Veterinary Profession within EFSCM

- Veterinarians are integral to food security
 - **Food Safety and Public Health:** veterinarians maintain the safety and suitability of food products, preventing crises related to foodborne illnesses:
 - Farm-to-Fork Oversight: they are involved at all stages: advising on farm hygiene, conducting ante- and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses, and enforcing food safety regulations during processing, transport, and distribution
 - Zoonoses monitoring: we are the primary 'sensory network' for detecting **diseases that could shut down the entire protein supply chain.**



The Role of the Veterinary Profession within EFSCM

- **Crisis Preparedness and One Health:**
 - **Contingency Planning:** contributing veterinary and epidemiological knowledge to the development of national and EU-level contingency plans for managing disease outbreaks or other threats to livestock.
 - **Scientific Advice:** to support to policymakers and decision-makers within the EFSCM framework on issues related to animal-source food production, trade, and health certification
 - **Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** supporting the One Health approach.



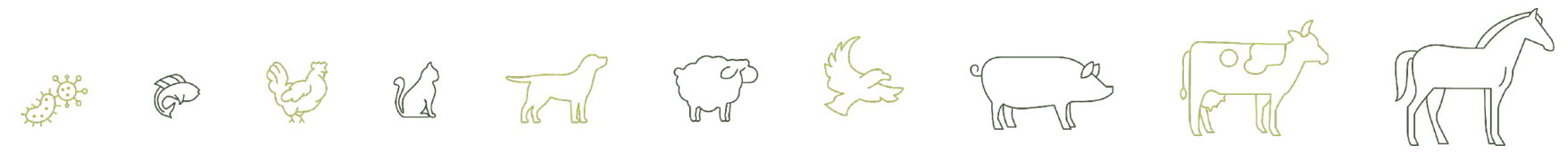
Veterinary role and visibility in EU feed and food security systems

- Integration of the **veterinary profession** and the technical knowledge **into non-veterinary systems** (e.g. within the policy and operational frameworks of non-animal disaster management) on peacetime by developing specialized training, and proactive communication with non-veterinary stakeholders
- Fill position within **national and regional emergency management agencies**, and environmental protection departments to cover scenarios outside of disease, such as chemical contamination, logistical disruptions (e.g., advising on maintaining cold chain integrity, alternative transport, or emergency feeding programs for livestock).



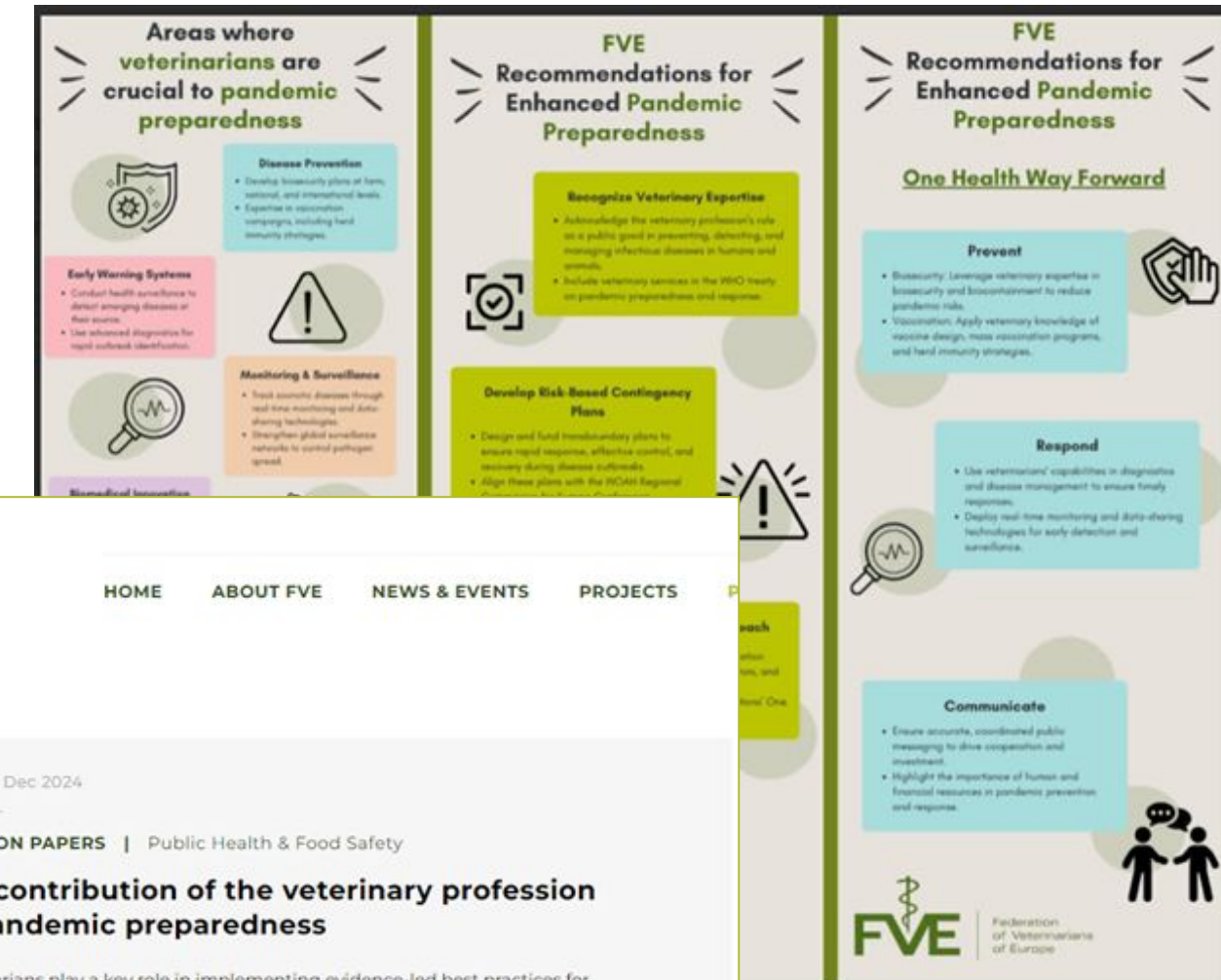
Veterinary role and visibility in EU feed and food security systems

- Participation in **simulated emergency drills** with human health, fire/rescue, and transport logistics teams focusing on non-animal scenarios (e.g., chemical spill affecting feed/water).
- **Specialized continuing professional** development will likely include areas like food defense, traceability systems, and regulatory toxicology.
- **Communicating** and integrating expertise in biological and chemical waste management as an integral part of biosecurity and environmental safety
- **Quantification of economic value**/impact of their involvement in risk mitigation, such as for instance amount of food waste prevented, financial losses averted due to swift contaminant traceback.



FVE recommendation for the preparedness and response efforts

- Integration of FVE policy and strategy with disaster preparedness and food defense plan.
- Focus on:
 - Planning national and EU-level contingency plans for managing disease outbreaks or other threats to livestock.
 - Supporting policymakers and decision-makers within the EFSCM framework on issues related to animal-source food production, trade, and health certification.





FVE recommendation for the preparedness and response efforts

- **The Veterinarian's Role in Early Warning & Monitoring**
 - Serving as the primary sensory network for detecting emerging contagious diseases that threaten livestock stability.
 - Providing real-time epidemiological data to forecast potential shocks in the animal protein supply chain.
 - Implementing rigorous on-farm protocols to prevent localized outbreaks from escalating into systemic food security crises.
 - Monitoring shifts in **vector-borne diseases** caused by changing European climate patterns to preemptively protect herd health.



FVE recommendation for the preparedness and response efforts

- **Crisis Response & Supply Chain Resilience**
 - Advising the Commission on safe trade corridors and "regionalization" to maintain the flow of animal products during disease outbreaks.
 - Monitoring the quality and safety of alternative feed sources necessitated by geopolitical disruptions (e.g., loss of Ukrainian grain/sunflower meal).
 - Ensuring that crisis-driven logistics or supply shortages do not compromise EU animal welfare mandates.
 - Acting as a bridge between the EFSCM and national competent authorities to ensure harmonized implementation of emergency measures.



FVE recommendation for the preparedness and response efforts

- **Strategic Development & Future Preparedness**
 - Contributing veterinary expertise to the EFSCM's contingency plans for high-impact "Black Swan" events.
 - Aligning crisis responses with the Farm to Fork Strategy to ensure long-term food system resilience.
 - Engaging with stakeholders in the livestock and feed sectors to build robust private-sector emergency reserves.
 - Communication of science-based safety assessments to maintain consumer confidence during periods of market volatility.



Key takeaways

- In the EFSCM we often talk about logistics, trade routes, and grain tonnages.
- In the EFSCM, we've realized that food security isn't just about having enough food — it's about the safety and continuity of the entire biological chain.
- The vet is no longer just a clinician — they are a strategic guarantor of Europe's social and economic stability.
- In a world of Permacrisis the distance between a farm-gate infection and an empty supermarket shelf is shorter than ever.
- **Veterinary profession must work to become the visible backbone of the resilience!**



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