

PODCAST resource efficiency

Voice 1: Sarah

Voice 2: Brian

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VOICE 1

You're listening to the European Parliamentary Research Service podcast on resource efficiency.

VOICE 2

The European Parliament is getting ready to vote on new measures to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030. Want to know more? Stay with us!

END OF JINGLE

VOICE 1

Every year in the EU, 88 million tonnes of edible food are wasted... that is around 20% of all food produced... and unless action is taken, it could be 126 million tonnes a year by 2020!

VOICE 2

Most of the waste comes from households (so it's old biscuits and bread, or bruised bananas...) but a lot also comes from agriculture and food processing.

VOICE 1

But the coming decades will pose a major challenge for humanity... In 2050, the world will need 70 per cent more food to feed a global population of 9.6 billion. So, how are we going to do this?

VOICE 2

One way is to increase food production, but a more sustainable option may be to reduce food waste, which would help alleviate the pressure on resources and lower greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.

VOICE 1

The Commission's Circular Economy Package has singled out food waste prevention as a priority area for action and has called on Member States to reduce food waste across the whole cycle, from production and consumption to waste management.

VOICE 2

As a follow-up to this package, the European Parliament has called for a holistic and coordinated approach to food waste prevention.

VOICE 1

MEPs in the Environment, Public health and Food Safety Committee want a clear definition for food waste, a common method for measuring it, a legally binding 50 % reduction target by 2030, and an objective of at least a 30 % reduction by 2025.

VOICE 2

They've also underlined the need to help consumers understand the difference between labels indicating the 'best before' date – after which food may still be eaten – and the 'use by' date – after which a product should no longer be consumed...

VOICE 1

MEPs also want the Commission to propose a change in the VAT directive that would explicitly authorise tax exemptions on food donations.

VOICE 2

The Committee's report will be submitted for a vote in the May plenary next week in Strasbourg.

VOICE 1

And we'll be following the vote!

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MUSIC JINGLE TO CONCLUDE