Building blocks for food system resilience in Europe

European Parliament Joint Hearing on “The impact of the Farm to Fork Strategy on agriculture and food systems”

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The Institute for European Environmental Policy

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IEEP Policy Report

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Towards systemic agricultural change post-COVID-19

Nora Hiller, Faustine Bas-Defossez
Resilience: risks and shocks to the food system

Taking the current policy opportunity for systemic change through building resilience:

• Reducing structural vulnerabilities
• Anticipating future shocks
• Creating the ability to absorb shocks

Changing the way our food system operates, comprehensively from production to consumption

Creating a balanced and stable system, with strong legal foundation
Human-nature interaction

- High-density, intensive agriculture has been key driver for emerging zoonotic diseases, pollution and habitat destruction
- Integrate animal welfare into mainstream Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork agenda
- Increasing the capacity to absorb shocks by moving away from an emphasis on efficiency

Supply chain considerations

- Shocks can lead to disruptions in the transport sector and changes in consumption patterns
- Resilience building through assessing and enhancing working conditions across the food sector
- Considering options for short and local supply chains
Sustainable diets and food availability

- Shocks induced disruptions and barriers in providing access to healthy and sustainable food products
- Greater interlinkages needed between economic, environmental and nutritional crisis – public health resilience
- Creating better environments for healthier and nutritious consumer choices
Building a robust and strategic framework for food system resilience

Deeper engagement for change
Systematic inclusion of food chain actors, civil society, citizens at regional level

Research & Innovation
Connecting field work, trainings, monitoring and a societal focus through the Horizon Europe missions

Governance for systemic change
Sustainability objectives and standards embedded in a robust legal framework, including targets
Rethinking the food system

- Opportunity to redirect policies to serve long-term sustainability goals
- Incorporating resilience as a central theme
- Combining necessary environmental ambition with enhanced governance and a strong scientific basis
- Deeper accountability, greater stakeholder engagement
Thank you for your attention

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