

EFFAT

European Federation of
Food, Agriculture, and Tourism Trade Unions

Assessing the impact of the War in Ukraine on the European agro-food sector *Proposed conclusions*

31 March 2022



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2 MAIN PRIORITIES:

- 1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households**
- 2. Prevent any negative consequences on jobs and working conditions in the agro-food sector, ensuring equal treatment and a fair integration of refugees in the labour market**



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1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households.

1.1 Calls on the EU and MS to tackle speculation on energy prices as well as across the food chain (e.g. monitoring trading practices) and in futures markets which is driving prices of agricultural commodities up



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1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households.

1.2 Calls on the EC to develop a contingency plan with the objective of finding short-term alternatives that can replace the imports of food commodities and agricultural inputs from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus.

The plan should envisage what the EU market can autonomously deliver and how third-countries can (at least partially) replace imports from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine



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1.3 Calls on Member States to substantially increase their contributions to the World Food Programme and the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to ensure these two institutions are capable of coordinating all actions needed to prevent a hunger crisis in food deficit regions such as Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan countries that largely rely on imports from Russia and Ukraine



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1.4 Supports the European Commission actions on the ground in Western Ukraine to ensure the harvesting season in the country takes place, at least partially, also this year



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1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households.

1.5 Calls on Member States to monitor available food stocks and take concrete initiatives to support low-income households, including through economic support and the implementation of reduced rates of Value Added Tax



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1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households.

1.6 Reminds that the current scenario exposes the vulnerabilities of our food system: our dependence on imports of e.g. gas, fertiliser and animal feed. Reiterates its support for the Farm to Fork Strategy and regrets the postponement of the revised directive on the sustainable use of pesticides and the revision of the nature restoration regulation. We insist that making our food systems more sustainable means also ensuring they are less dependent on antibiotics, synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and therefore making them also safer for agro-food workers



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1. Ensure food security in Ukraine and in food deficit countries as well as food affordability for most vulnerable households.

1.7 Condemns any attempt to instrumentalize the War in Ukraine to oppose the ambitious environmental objectives of the F2F and the Green Deal. These policies set long-terms and medium-term targets and postponing them is not going to deliver any benefit for businesses and workers facing the consequences of the conflict.



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2. Prevent any negative consequences on jobs and working conditions in the agro-food sector, ensure equal treatment and ensure a fair integration of refugees in the labour market

2.1 Calls on the Commission to carry out a detailed assessment of the actual and potential negative impact of the war on jobs in the agro-food sector in each Member State and at Union level



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2.2 Calls on Member States and the Commission for the adoption of emergency measures to minimize the possible negative repercussion of the war on jobs in the agro-food sector. We ask for the continuation of emergency measures successfully used by the EU to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak, including SURE, by refinancing and refocusing them to address the consequences of the war on the economy and employment



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2.3 Warns against any attempt to use the war and the need to increase food production in Europe as an excuse to weaken labour inspections and implement a deregulation agenda on workers' rights



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2.4 Calls on MS to welcome all people fleeing from Ukraine and to fully implement the recently activated Temporary Protection Directive through solidarity and shared responsibility between EU Member States.

We encourage MS to fully implement the Directive extending protection also to third country undocumented migrants and stateless without valid ID who are fleeing from the war. We call on Member States, to liaise with social partners and agree on an action plan to ensure a fair inclusion of refugees in the labour market



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2.5 Urges Member States and the Commission to support a fair integration in the labour market of all refugees who have left or will leave Ukraine, to guarantee them full equal treatment in the workplace, and prevent and fight against any form of exploitation and discrimination at work



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2.6 Calls on Member States and national authorities responsible for controls on working conditions to increase the frequency and step up the effectiveness of inspections in the agro-food sector, ensuring equal treatment and monitoring against workers' rights violation. We call on ELA to coordinate this work with national competent authorities. We reiterate EFFAT demand for an EU legal instrument on Inspections and complaint mechanisms to increase the frequency and effectiveness of inspections (See demand nr 2 of [EFFAT demands on labour mobility](#))

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