



EU system for Health and consumer protection



OECD Conference on Agricultural Knowledge
systems: Responding to Global Food Security
and Climate Change Challenges
Paris 15,17 June 2011

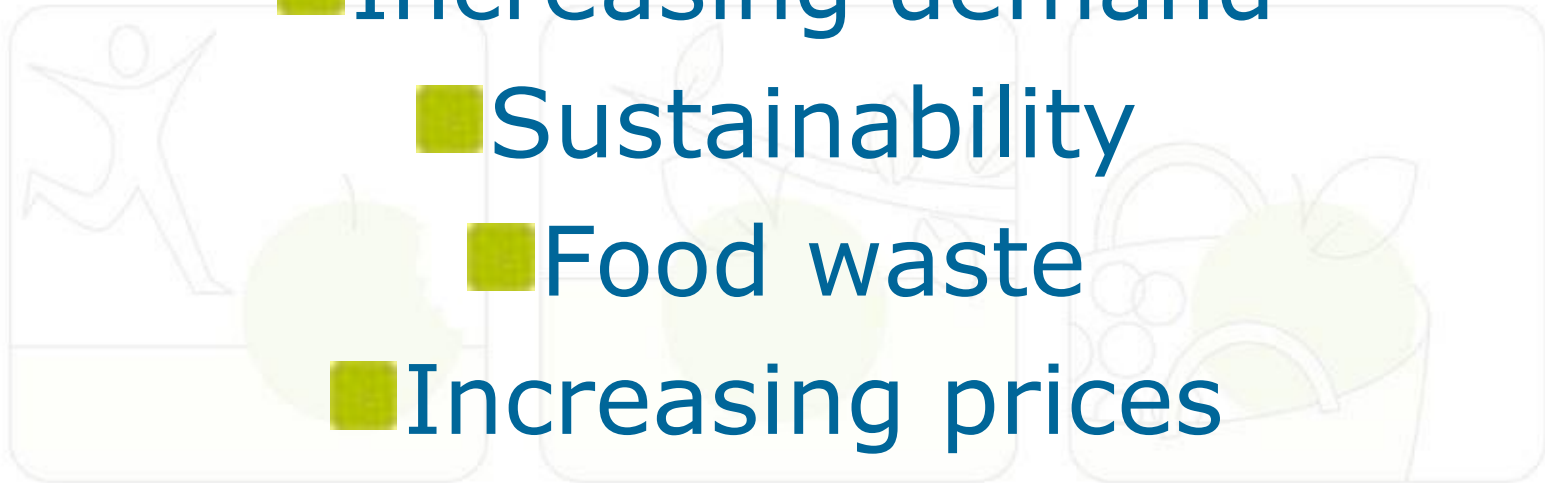
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EU Regulatory framework

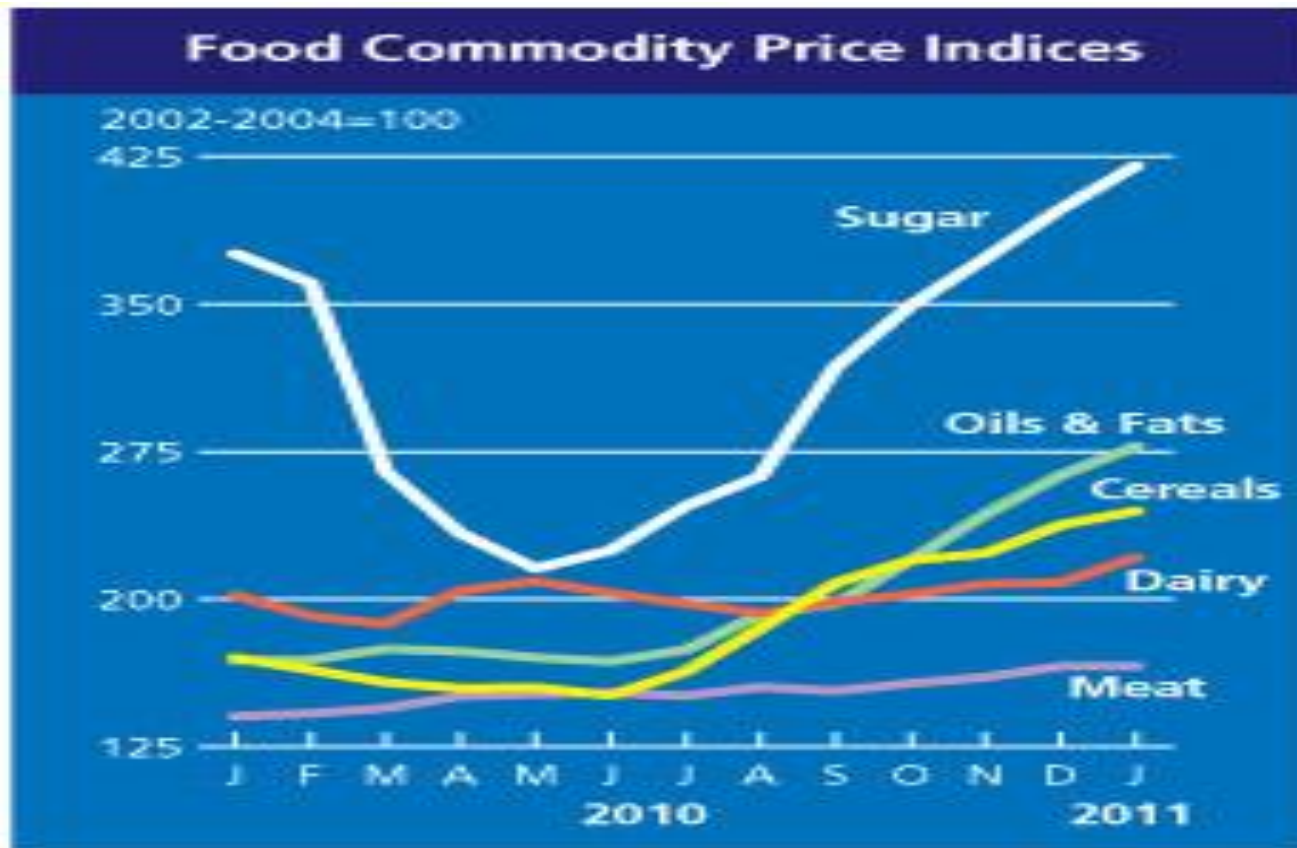
- Food crisis 1990
- General food law objectives
 - Protection of public health
 - Consumer protection
 - Effective functioning of Internal market
- Established the principles of risk analysis
- Greater involvement of stakeholders at all stages in the development of food law.

Key Facts

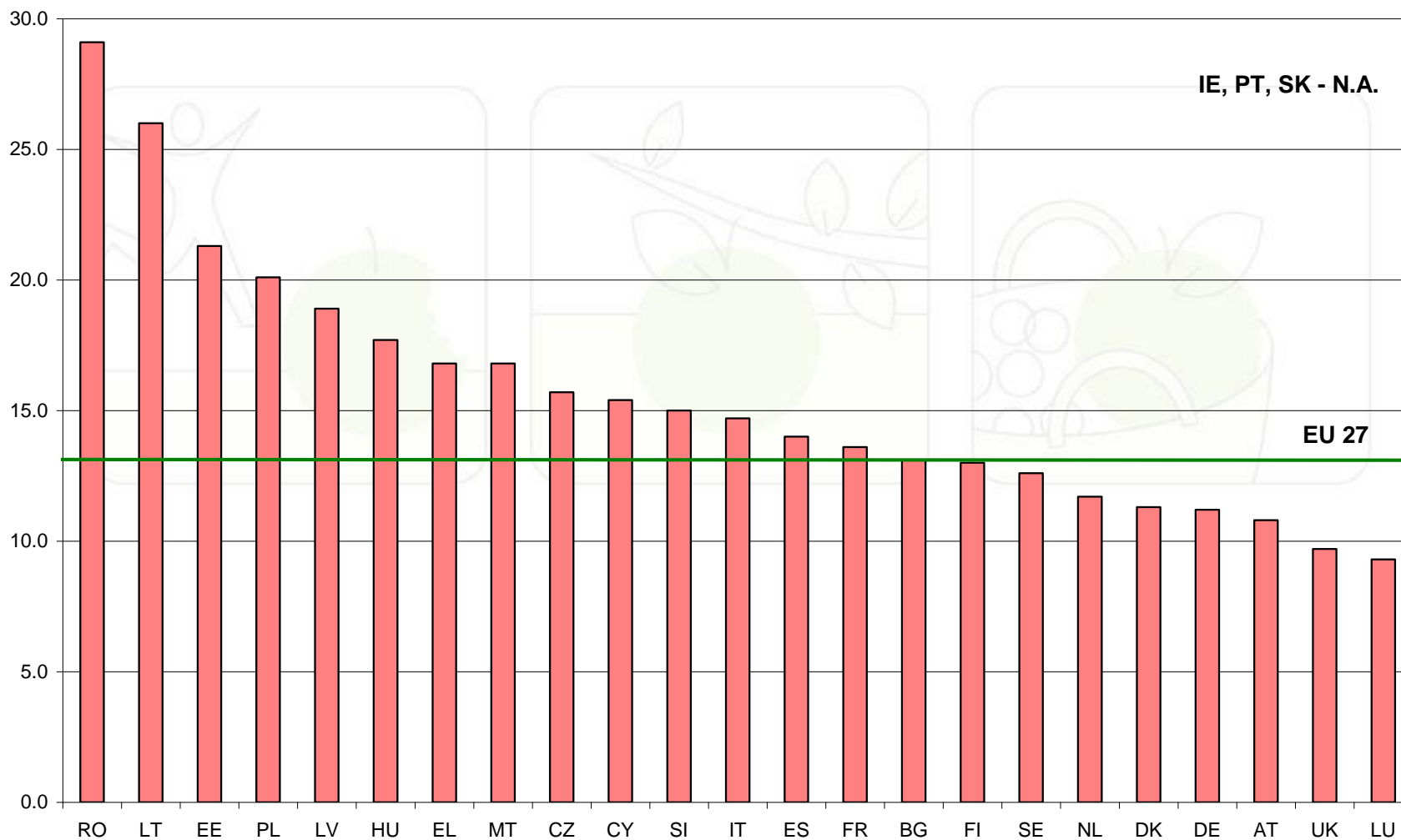
- Increasing demand
 - Sustainability
 - Food waste
- Increasing prices
- Food supply chain



Commodity Prices



Food consumptions of household (2009, % of total)



Key data on EU agro-industry sector

- Turnover: €920.6 billion (2009)
- Largest manufacturing sector in the EU (13% of global turnover). In 2009 this top role has been maintained despite the crisis. Other sectors have recorded a sharp decrease in the turnover (e.g. Motor vehicles – 13.5%, Machinery and equipment -22%, Chemicals -17%)
- Employment: 4.1 million people (2009)
- Leading employer in the EU (approx 13%, 2009)
- Number of companies 290,000 (2009)

No action is not an option

- Assuming no technical change or adaptation, the food system as we know it is unsustainable
- increasing over consumption/obesity
- World Bank estimates show that recent food price volatility, in early 2011, has thrown an additional 44 million people into extreme poverty.

Challenges (1)

- Need of huge scientific investment, international and multi-disciplinary collaboration: science and technology to develop innovative products and production processes:
- Responsible innovation: GMO, Novel food

Challenges (2)

- Increase food supply and meet the challenge of minimising emissions
- Reduce food waste, food overproduction and over consumption. Fight obesity
- Respond to societal and ethical concerns: Animal Welfare, Food Waste, new technologies such as biotech, cloning etc.
- Better governance and smarter regulation
- Globalisation and climate change increase the risks of future volatility

Challenges (3)

■ Efforts should be made to improve:

- Availability and accessibility of safe food
- Nutritional adequacy of food intake
- crisis prevention and management

- ### ■ “... a smarter use of scarce resources is a strategic necessity, but also an economic opportunity...” (EU2020 Resource Efficiency Flagship)

Challenges (4)

- Alternative farming (e.g. organic farming) is significantly developing in some sectors (e.g. egg sector). Can this trend be translated into other sectors?
- Bio-economy (refers to the sustainable production and conversion of biomass into a range of food, health, fibre and industrial products and energy)?



Need for a holistic approach to address

- Food security and food safety
- Better informed, confident and empowered consumer
- Increasing global population, urbanisation
- Quality and variety at affordable price
- Environment protection
- Tradition, landscape and rural vitality
- Agricultural revenue and production costs
- Price volatility, setting, transmission and transparency
- Difficult access credit. Current economic crisis
- Distribution of the added value
- Bargaining power and unfair commercial practices
- Globalisation and Market regulation
- SMEs
- Research and innovation

Europe 2020 strategy

■ Innovation Union

- Make Europe into a world-class science performer;
- Remove obstacles to innovation
- Improve the way public and private sectors work together

■ Resource efficient Europe

- Resource-efficient, low-carbon economy to achieve sustainable growth.

The High Level Forum for a better functioning of the food supply chain

- 2010: extension of the scope and membership of the High Level Group becoming the **High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain** with two years mandate
- **Mandate**
 - Business to business contractual practices in the food supply chain
 - Food price monitoring tool
 - Competitiveness in the agro-food industry
 - Agro-logistics
- **Membership:** 45 members

Smart Regulation in the European Commission - Simplification



Smart Regulation in the European Commission - Simplification

- Simplification Rolling Programme aims at simplifying existing EU legislation.
- Benefits for market operators and citizens (enhances European economy's effectiveness).
- Spurs innovation and reduces administrative burden.



Impact assessment



SANCO IA Process

- The aim of the IA process is to improve the quality of Commission's proposals and improve and simplify the regulatory environment.
- It also helps ensuring consistency between Community policies...
- ...and it contributes to sustainable development by assessing the economic, environmental and social impacts of proposals.



Terms of the impact assessment

- Does the option stimulate or hinder research and development?
- Does it facilitate the introduction and dissemination of new production methods, technologies and products?
- Does it affect intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, copyright, other know-how rights)?
- Does it promote or limit academic or industrial research?
- Does it promote greater productivity/resource efficiency?

GM

- Framework
- Authorisation
- Challenges



Pesticides Regulation (EC)1107/2009

- Framework to for developing new substances
- Rules for SMEs on access to information
- Mutual recognition
- Foster diffusion of technology
- Role in global food security
- Considers impact on biodiversity



Nanotechnologies

- Current EU legislation
- Health, Safety and Environment aspects are key for successful development of nano
- Need of further development of scientific knowledge on risks and test methods
- Consumer acceptance



Further reading

- http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/food/competitiveness/forum_food/index_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/index_en.htm

Thank You

