



THE EU

Food Justice Forum

Global Crises, Rights & Policies

foodjusticeforum.eu

This forum is a high-level civil society-led gathering in Brussels bringing together representatives of EU institutions, Member States, civil society organisations, academia, farmers' organisations, workers' unions and international partners.

TUESDAY
9/6/26

AREA 42
46 Rue des Palais,
1030 Brussels

09:30–10:00

Welcome and Registration

10:00–10:30

Opening Session

- **Moderator** – Welcome and opening remarks
- Pre-recorded video message by **Mary Robinson**, Former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Moderated discussion:**
 - **Gabriel Ferrero**, Senior Strategy Advisor on Global Agriculture and Food Security Program for GAFSP, Former Chair of the World Food Committee, and former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain
 - **Geneviève Savigny**, Member of the UN Working Group on the Rights of Peasants
- **Moderator** – Overview of the day's agenda

10:30–11:45

Plenary 1: Implementing the Right to Food: EU Commitments at Home and Abroad

In a context of escalating geopolitical instability and shrinking public funding, this plenary will reaffirm a clear message: the right to food is not optional and must continue to guide decision-making, even under pressure.

It will take stock of the European Union's existing commitments across treaties, policies and legislation, spotlighting key gaps and the urgent need for stronger policy coherence. The discussion will examine how EU policies translate into responsibilities beyond its borders, highlighting the implications for the realisation of the right to food globally, particularly in terms of coherence, credibility and accountability.

The session will also emphasise the role of citizen engagement in driving change and will conclude by exploring how to strengthen oversight mechanisms so that civil society can effectively fulfil its watchdog role.

10:30–11:45

Plenary 1: Implementing the Right to Food: EU Commitments at Home and Abroad

- **María García Pérez**, Head of the Rural Development, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security Division at the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development
- **Juan Echanove**, Right to Food Lead, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Diana Gichengo**, The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA), Right to Food Coalition Kenya
- **Dee Woods**, Landworkers Alliance UK, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) Coordinating Committee
- **Tomaso Ferrando**, associate professor in International Environmental Law at the University of Antwerp

11:45–12:00

Coffee Break

12:00–13:15

Plenary 2: International Cooperation for Global Food Systems Transformation

At a time of deepening and interconnected global crises, international cooperation can play a decisive role in driving the transformation of food systems worldwide. This session will make the case for placing food security, nutrition and sustainable food systems at the heart of EU external action, examining how stronger coherence across development, trade, climate and agricultural policies can support smallholder livelihoods and reinforce local food systems across regions.

The discussion will highlight concrete policy pathways and strategic adjustments needed to advance a more just and resilient global food system. Grounded in the right to food, it will underline how transformative change depends on inclusive and cooperative decision-making across sectors and geographies, recognition of global interdependencies, and the meaningful participation of those most affected by food insecurity.

- **Andrea Alfieri**, Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Agri-food Systems, DG INTPA European Commission
- **Adriana Herrera Moreno**, Secretary, Committee on World Food Security
- **Cristina Guarda**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Jameson Gadzirai**, Country Director for the Central African Republic - Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- **Morgan Ody**, Farmer and General Coordinator - La Via Campesina

13:15–14:15

Networking Lunch Break

14:15–15:30

Parallel Workshops / Breakout Sessions

*Participants will register for and attend **one workshop** from the options below.*

Workshop A – The Right to Food in the European Union

This workshop will offer an interactive space to explore how a rights-based approach can drive meaningful change in EU food policies. Through a world-café format, participants will discuss concrete policy options and mobilisation opportunities - from access to food and public procurement to the common agricultural policy (CAP) and the [European Citizens' Initiative on the right to food](#) - and identify key opportunities and challenges for advancing the right to food across the Union.

- **Walter Nagar**, Mater Fondazione and Good food for all - EU
- **Olga Kikou**, Animal Advocacy & Food Transition, and a member of Good Food for All - EU
- **Mathieu Courgeau**, co-president of Collectif Nourrir
- **Laura Sauques**, Senior Policy Officer on Sustainable Food Systems and the CAP, IFOAM Organics Europe
- **Jonathan Peuch**, Legal expert and Advocacy officer, FIAN Belgium

Workshop B – Addressing Hunger and Malnutrition in Fragile Contexts

As conflicts deepen and respect for International Humanitarian Law erodes, malnutrition is rising while resources to address hunger are diminishing. In fragile contexts marked by conflict and rights violations, the right to food is increasingly at risk, fuelling instability and undermining prospects for peace and social justice. By engaging participants in an open exchange, this workshop will examine why stronger EU action is urgently needed and what it means to protect the right to food in such settings. It will explore policy frameworks, the consequences of cuts to aid, and the crucial role of local organisations, particularly women-led groups, who are often the first responders. By linking these discussions to the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework and its approach to fragile settings, the session will put forward concrete recommendations to strengthen EU leadership.

- **François Grünewald**, Engineer in agronomical sciences, PHD on disaster management
- **Juan Echanove**, Right to Food Lead, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Annick Villarosa**, Head of Unit Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies and International Humanitarian Law, European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- **Wim Schalenbourg**, Coordinator for Fragility and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus at the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) within the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Roos Verstraeten**, Scientific Project Officer, Nutrition European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) D.5 Food Security Unit

Workshop C – Financing the Realisation of the Right to Food: Public and Private Finance within and beyond the EU

Financial markets increasingly shape how food is produced, traded and consumed, transforming it into a global commodity and financial asset detached from local ecosystems, communities and the right to food itself. As land and agriculture are treated as investment opportunities, smallholders, food sovereignty and equitable access to nutrition are placed at risk. At the same time, the reshaping of development cooperation, accelerated by ODA cuts and the EU's Global Gateway strategy, enables commercial, growth-oriented models heavily reliant on private investment and global value chains.

This workshop will examine what these shifts mean for nutrition and food security, and explore financing approaches grounded in a right-to-food framework that align financial flows with social justice, sustainability and human rights.

- **Enric Sol Brines i Gómez**, Head of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation Brussels Office
- **Tom Arnold**, Chair of the Board of the Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; Chair, Effective Aid Ukraine; Board member of the Global FoodBanking Network (GFN); member, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GloPan); board member, Malabo Montpellier Panel; board member, John and Pat Hume Foundation
- **Pauline Verrière**, Head of advocacy on Food Systems and Climate Crisis, Action contre la Faim

Workshop D – Seed Diversity and Farmers' Rights

This session will examine the implications of the EU's ongoing debates on seeds legislation, notably the proposals on Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) and New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), at a critical political juncture. It will explore how these frameworks risk undermining agrobiodiversity, farmer-managed seed systems and breeder autonomy, while accelerating the concentration of power among multinational seed and agrochemical corporations.

The discussion will also address the global repercussions of EU seed policies, particularly in the Global South, where diverse, farmer-led seed systems remain central to food security and climate resilience but are increasingly threatened by restrictive intellectual property regimes such as imposition of UPOV 91 by EU in its bilateral trade negotiations with countries in the global south (e.g, Zimbabwe and Philippines). The session will create space to connect EU and global struggles, strategise advocacy, and explore international cooperation to defend seed diversity and farmers' rights.

- **Locardia Shayamunda**, Seasoned development practitioner and academic with extensive expertise in ecology and rural development
- **Jean Thevenot**, farmer in the Basque Country, ECVC Coordinating Committee Member, member of Confédération Paysanne

15:30–15:45

Coffee Break

15:45–17:00

Plenary 3: Agrarian reform in the EU for Food, Environmental and Health Justice

Agrarian reform and land governance are central to realising the right to food through agroecology. Building on the momentum of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in Colombia in February 2026, this plenary will explore what agrarian reform could and should mean in the EU context.

The session will examine key leverage points, including land regulation, the European Land Observatory and the proposed EU directive on land. Drawing on comparative experiences from Eastern and Western Europe, it will also highlight how agrarian reform in the EU is inherently linked to international solidarity, given Europe's dependency on imports and the land grabs this dependency fuels globally. The panel will centre the perspectives and demands of peasant farmers' organisations and land rights experts.

- **Morgan Ody**, Farmer and General Coordinator - La Via Campesina
- **Jan Brunner**, Member of AbL in Germany, member of ECVC
- **Robert Levesque**, president of AGTER
- **Saskia Bricmont**, Member of the European Parliament

17:00–17:30

Closing Session

Moderated discussion (30 min) – moderation by **Angelo Di Mambro**, Editor for EU agriculture and food policies at Euractiv) – *Retaking the narrative on food sovereignty through a right-to-food lens:*

- **Karine Jacquemart**, Directrice générale Food Watch France

Conclusion and next steps by the Moderator

After the Forum, you are warmly invited to join the **Taste & Talk: Agroecology in Action**. This interactive tasting brings participants into direct dialogue with farmers, food artisans, and cooks, offering a firsthand experience of how agroecology translates lived practice into tangible policy insights (and great food!).

Please note that this event takes place at Talk CEC, not at the Forum venue, so plan time for transportation. Registration is available via slowfood.com and is open until 5 June.

Organisers and Supporters



For any queries,
please contact:

info@foodjusticeforum.eu

