

Statement Minister Crevits UNFSS

Dear excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

As Flemish Minister of Food and National Convenor of the Belgian Member State Dialogue, I would like to use this opportunity to express our **ambition** to achieve a resilient, fair, sustainable and healthy food system.

I want to fully commit myself, my region and country to help shape the upcoming transition. In doing so, I aim to contribute to the **European Green Deal, its strategies and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

Now is the time to take action and build an **integrated and inclusive food policy**. But in the meantime, we have already taken action.

I shall give you a few examples.

1. **First of all: we are redefining our protein economy** while actively supporting farmers in this transition and recognizing the importance of different elements such as animal welfare.
2. **Second: we are phasing out waste throughout the system**
3. **And third:** We recently invested in food distribution platforms. These platforms, called FOODSAVERS, collect and distribute food to those in need and create jobs in the social economy.
4. We are pioneering in establishing dietary guidelines positive for both human and planetary health.

These and many other actions will come together in our **Food Strategy**, which we will present at our very own **Food Summit** at the end of next year.

We are in this together, we strongly believe in international collaboration and are committed to strengthen food security and the right to food worldwide.

Belgium will roll out its **Beyond Food Strategy** next year. This is very important in the fight against global warming but also to ensure respect for human rights, to fight for gender equality and to make sure agricultural producers get paid fair wages.

The follow-up process after the summit will be key and we stress the central role of the **committee on food security** - together with the **High Level Panel Expert Group** - as multilateral institution for inclusive food systems policy to maximise the summit outcomes.

Our own food summit will take place at the end of next year, and will lay the foundations for a bright food future. Let's keep working together, let's achieve this ambition together!