

Signed Minutes of the 1st EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Sustainable Food Systems Committee Meeting

6:30-8:00am NZDT Friday 14 February / 6:30-8:00pm CET Thursday 13 February 2025

Virtual

The first meeting of the European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee on Sustainable Food Systems was hosted by the European Union on 13 February 2025 in online format. The Sustainable Food Systems Committee was established under the provisions of the European Union-New Zealand FTA Chapter 7 Article 7.6.

The meeting was co-chaired by Charlotte Denny, Divisional Manager, Sustainable Trade and Environment from the Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand and by Caroline Boeshertz, Head of Unit, Bilateral International Relations from the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Union.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Having welcomed each other and their delegations to the Sustainable Food Systems Committee Meeting, both parties noted their shared view that the forum is important for discussing and progressing collaborative action on the wide range of issues spanning the food system. Both parties reflected on the importance of this chapter in the FTA as the first-of-its-kind. The European Union noted the importance of reconciling work under the Sustainable Food Systems Committee with other streams of bilateral work to focus resources. The meeting agenda was adopted and can be found in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 2: Sustainable Food Systems – Domestic Policy Updates

Both parties provided updates on their respective policies on sustainable food systems.

New Zealand outlined key policy changes for agriculture relating to freshwater and climate change. The European Union outlined the development of its strategic agenda to promote the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of the agri-food sector.

The European Union noted that the Vision for Agriculture and Food will be released shortly and offered to host a virtual session with New Zealand on the Vision for Agriculture and Food.

Agenda Item 3: New Zealand's Standardised Methodology for Calculating On-Farm Emissions

New Zealand presented on its standardised methodology for calculating on-farm emissions, covering the reasons for and the process of developing the methodology and outlined next steps for the methodology.

The European Union noted their interest in the voluntary adoption of the methodology in New Zealand, incorporating the methodology into existing calculator reporting tools, and encouraging investment into carbon markets. European Union noted they are encouraging investment into carbon markets through the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification (CRCF) Regulation and that methodologies are a key element of this work.

Both parties agreed that the proliferation and fragmentation of measurement standards for carbon footprints for food systems is of concern and agreed to continue discussions on measuring on-farm emissions at the next Sustainable Food Systems Committee. Both parties agreed to engage prior to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's

(OECD) Committee for Agriculture meeting in April 2025 to examine support for an OECD mechanism on carbon footprinting for food systems.

Agenda Item 4: Environmental Inhibitors and Alignment on International Standards

New Zealand presented on environmental inhibitors, covering how and why they are regulated in New Zealand, and international engagement on environmental inhibitors through Codex Alimentarius.

New Zealand offered to share New Zealand's policy brief on environmental inhibitors, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations report on Food Safety Implications from the Use of Environmental Inhibitors in Agrifood Systems, and New Zealand's communication to the World Trade Organization's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on Environmental Inhibitors in Agrifood Systems and the Role of Codex.

The European Union outlined their domestic regulations on environmental inhibitors and were interested in follow up on the status of nitrification and urease inhibitors. The European Union stated their interest to work with New Zealand on actions in Codex, along with interest by Member States of the European Union. The European Union expressed interest in the process followed by FAO for its work on safety assessment and in contributing to future side events at Codex Committees on environmental inhibitors.

The European Union requested that New Zealand inform the European Union of what compounds New Zealand plans to put forward prior to Codex Committees. The European Union agreed to liaise with European Union Member States on research collaboration with New Zealand on data gaps in risk assessments for environmental inhibitors.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business and Closing Remarks

Both parties agreed to adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Trade Committee found in Annex 24 of the FTA for the Sustainable Food Systems Committee.

Both parties agreed to adopt a work plan for 2025 for ongoing exchanges, as mutually agreed, with the following topics as priorities:

- efforts to combat food loss and waste,
- environmental inhibitors and alignment on international standards for these compounds, and
- approaches to measuring and mitigating agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, with a view to improve understanding of respective methodologies.

Both parties noted the following action items:

- holding follow up discussions on the European Union Vision for Agriculture and Food following its public release,
- engaging prior to the April 2025 OECD Committee for Agriculture to align positions on measuring carbon footprinting for food systems,
- engaging prior to future Codex committee meetings to discuss plans in relation to environmental inhibitor including nominating compounds for Codex food safety risk assessments,
- for the European Union to liaise with Member States on their interest in collaborating with New Zealand on research to fill data gaps necessary for the risk assessments for environmental inhibitors.

Parties confirmed their contact points for the Committee.

Both parties agreed to meet again in 12-months.

Annex 1

New Zealand – European Union Free Trade Agreement Committee on Sustainable Food Systems

6:30-8:00am NZDT Thursday 14 February / 6:30-8:00pm CET Thursday 13 February
2025 Location: Online only – Microsoft Teams

Agenda

Co-chairs:

New Zealand: Ms Charlotte Denny, Divisional Manager, Sustainable Trade and Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries

European Union: Ms Caroline Boeshertz, DG SANTE A5 – Bilateral Relations, Head of Unit

Time (NZDT)	#	Agenda item	Duration	Lead
6:30am	1	Welcome and opening remarks a. New Zealand (5 minutes) b. European Union (5 minutes)	10 minutes	Co-chairs
6:40am	2	Sustainable Food Systems – domestic policy updates c. New Zealand (10 minutes) d. European Union (10 minutes)	20 minutes	NZ: Co-chair EU: DG AGRI
7:00am	3	New Zealand's Standardised Methodology for Calculating On-Farm Emissions a. Presentation (15 minutes) b. Discussion (10 minutes)	25 minutes	New Zealand
7:25am	4	Environmental Inhibitors and Alignment on International Standards a. Presentation (15 minutes) b. Discussion (10 minutes)	25 minutes	New Zealand
7:50am	5	Other business and closing remarks a. Meeting report (incl. action items) b. Adoption of the 2025 Work Plan	10 minutes	Co-chairs