

**Signed Minutes of the 2nd European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
Sustainable Food Systems Committee Meeting**

5:00-6:00pm NZST 22 April 2026 / 7:00-8:00am CEST 22 April 2026

Wellington, New Zealand

The second meeting of the European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee on Sustainable Food Systems was held in Wellington, New Zealand on 22 April 2026. The meeting was hosted by New Zealand and participation was in-person and online.

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 (MPI), New Zealand and by Elisabetta Siracusa, Director International from the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), European Union. The list of both delegations can be found in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and opening remarks

The Parties welcomed each other and their respective delegations to the Sustainable Food Systems Committee meeting and reaffirmed their shared view that the forum is an important mechanism for advancing cooperative action across the breadth of food system issues. They underscored the significance of the Sustainable Food Systems chapter as a first-of-its-kind provision in the FTA, and noted the current challenges facing food systems internationally, including the supply chain disruptions from the conflict in the Middle East and the impacts of extreme weather events. The meeting agenda was adopted as set out in Annex 2.

Agenda Item 2: Efforts to combat food loss and waste

Both Parties provided updates on their respective developments in policies to combat food loss and waste.

The European Union outlined the most recent developments in food loss and waste policy, including the EU-wide data collected, food waste prevention policies, and the revision of the Waste Framework Directive. New Zealand provided an overview of its first national food loss and waste baseline measure, published in 2025.

Both Parties agreed to continue discussions on approaches to measuring and evaluating food loss and waste.

Agenda Item 3: Environmental inhibitors and alignment on international standards for these

New Zealand presented on its global advocacy and outreach relating to environmental inhibitors and their relevance to the transition towards more sustainable food systems. New Zealand also outlined the current status of work on environmental inhibitors within Codex Alimentarius and identified areas of future interest for cooperation.

The Parties discussed the role that other international organisations, including the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), could play in addressing environmental inhibitors, as well as the types of substances that may warrant further consideration.

The Parties agreed to continue regular coordination ahead of relevant Codex Committee meetings; to further discuss WOH's role in addressing animal health and animal-product-related aspects of environmental inhibitors; to explore the joint development of risk communication materials to support consumer understanding and acceptance of environmental inhibitors; and to explore revising and revisiting relevant Codex guidelines, including the *Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level*.

Agenda Item 4: Approaches to measuring and mitigating agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, with a view to improve understanding of respective methodologies

New Zealand updated on ongoing progress with New Zealand's Farm Emissions Method (FEM), including the latest release, the inclusion of additional mitigation technologies, and the release of a new MPI-backed on-farm emissions calculator. New Zealand also presented on the side-by-side comparison of New Zealand's FEM and the Thünen Institute's Agri GHG-Tool for calculating on-farm emissions, developed through the New Zealand-Germany Alliance for the Climate (AgriDENZ), which demonstrated that the two methodologies produce similar results and are comparable. New Zealand also noted a similar project was planned with Ireland.

The Parties discussed next steps for cooperation through the AgriDENZ project, including opportunities to expand engagement with other European Union Member States and relevant research institutes. The Parties also noted future discussions on measuring on-farm emissions between MPI and DG AGRI outside the framework of the Sustainable Food Systems Committee. The Parties further discussed the potential of this work as a case study for recognising that while production systems may differ, there is scope to build mutual confidence and trust in measuring agricultural emissions.

The Parties agreed to continue discussions on the development of on-farm emissions methodologies in New Zealand and the European Union; policies requiring the quantification of emissions and sequestration; and approaches to improve emissions measurement. They also agreed to continue discussions on addressing international fragmentation of standards and reporting requirements for measuring agricultural emissions, and to engage in a future exploratory discussion on high-level principles to support cooperation on sustainable agriculture.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business and Closing Remarks

Both parties agreed to adopt a work plan for 2026 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:

- Continuing discussions on approaches to measuring and evaluating food loss and waste

- Continuing regular coordination between the European Commission, European Union Member States, and New Zealand prior to relevant Codex Committee meetings
- Discussing the role WOAH plays on environmental inhibitors to address animal product and health issues
- Exploring the possibility of cooperation on the joint development of risk communication materials to support consumer understanding and acceptance of environmental inhibitors
- Exploring the possibility of revising and revisiting relevant Codex guidelines, including the *Guidelines for rapid risk analysis following instances of detection of contaminants in food where there is no regulatory level*
- Continuing discussions on the development of on-farm emissions methodologies in New Zealand and the European Union, policies requiring the quantification of emissions and sequestration; and approaches to improve emissions measurement
- Continuing discussions on addressing international fragmentation of standards and reporting requirements for measuring agricultural emissions
- Exploring the development and use of high-level principles supporting cooperation on sustainable agriculture and trade

Parties confirmed their contact points for the Committee as recorded in Annex 3.

Both parties agreed to meet again in 12-months.

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



Ms Elisabetta Siracusa
Director, International
Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development, European Union



Annex 1

List of Delegations

New Zealand

Ministry for Primary Industries

Ms Charlotte Denny, Divisional Manager, Sustainable Trade and Environment (NZ Chair)

Ministry for the Environment

Mission to the European Union

European Union

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Ms Elisabetta Siracusa, DG AGRI – Director International

Directorate-General for Trade

Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand

Annex 2

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

5:00-6:00pm NZST 22 April 2026 / 7:00-8:00am CEST 22 April 2026
2026 Location: Wellington, New Zealand

Agenda**Co-chairs:**

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

European Union: Ms Elisabetta Siracusa, Director International, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

Time (NZDT)	#	Agenda item	Duration	Lead
17:00 – 17:05	1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand opening remarks • European Union opening remarks 	5 minutes	Co-chairs
17:10 – 17:20	2	Efforts to combat food loss and waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union update • New Zealand update 	10 minutes	New Zealand & European Union
17:20 – 17:35	3	Environmental inhibitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand presentation • Discussion 	15 minutes	New Zealand
17:35 – 17:50	4	Measuring agricultural greenhouse gas emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand presentation • Discussion 	25 minutes	New Zealand
17:50 – 18:00	5	Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting report • Adoption of 2026 work plan • EU closing remarks • NZ closing remarks 	10 minutes	Co-chairs

Annex 3

Contact Points