



European Committee
of the Regions

Commission for
Natural Resources

NAT

18th meeting of the NAT commission
and conference

Food crisis: Innovative building of resilient regional and local communities

2 June 2023
Toruń,
Poland



Programme





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of the Regions**



2 June 2023 | Toruń, Poland |

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Food crisis: Innovative building of resilient regional and local communities

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine and the prospect of a sustained conflict put food security back on the political agenda. Coupled with the ever more disrupting effects of climate change, it affects both the resilience of European regions and the wellbeing of their citizens.

This conference will discuss these major challenges affecting stability and efficiency of our food systems and will reflect on sustainable solutions at EU, national, regional and local level to ensure our food security both within the Union and beyond.

09:00 **Registration and coffee**

09:30 **Welcome and opening address**

Piotr Całbecki (PL/EPP), President of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region

Michał Zaleski, Mayor of Toruń

Isilda Gomes (PT/PES), CoR, Chair of the Commission for Natural Resources

09:55 **Dubravka Šuica**, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography (video address)

10:00 **Session 1: Impact of climate change on food systems**

The summer of 2022 saw Europe's worst drought in 500 years. A combination of record-breaking temperatures and low rainfall caused rivers to dry, wildfires to rage and crop failures to compound already high food prices. This session will look into how the challenges generated by climate change can be tackled at local, regional, national and EU level and review solutions available to farmers and decision-makers to mitigate the impact of warm-up and dry conditions and ensure our food security at EU level and beyond.

Prof. Ireneusz Sobota, Head of Copernicus Polar Station and Chair of Hydrology and Water Management at the University of Toruń

Dr Pedro Arias, Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Isabel Paliotta, Policy advisor, European Environmental Bureau

Adam Nowak, Vice President, European Council of Young Farmers

Andrzej Chodkowski, Minister, Chief Inspector, Polish Plant Health and Seed Inspection

11:30 **Coffee break**

11:45 **Session 2: Building regional strategies for food security**

Thriving local and regional food systems are key element of our food security. Boosting their future resilience is essential – meaning: encouraging more diverse regional and local food production; fully exploiting the potential of local supply chains and food public procurement; facilitating innovations that support smallholder farming and local food production ... How could regional food security strategies contribute to building a more resilient and sustainable food system? What role for local and regional authorities in the food systems transition.

Marlene Mortler (DE/EPP), Member of the European Parliament

Piotr Całbecki (PL/EPP), President of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, CoR Rapporteur on Food Security

Christina Borchmann, Director for Common Agriculture Policy Strategic Plans, European Commission, DG AGRI

Natalia Slobodian, Head of Department Climate Change and Environment Protection at DTEK

Marek Zagórski, Chairman of National Food Industry Group

Vivien Franck, Sustainable Food Systems Officer at the ICLEI European Secretariat

13:15 **Conclusions and closure of the debate**

Piotr Całbecki (PL/EPP), President of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region

Isilda Gomes (PT/PES), CoR, Chair of the Commission for Natural Resources

13:30 - 14:30 **Lunch**

13:45 **Departure to Bydgoszcz airport (BZG)**

14:15 **Departure to Gdańsk airport (GDN)**

15:00 **Study visit to the dairy farm**

19:30 **Concert in St Johns' Cathedral**

Chopin's 1st Piano concerto in E minor and Vivaldi's Four Seasons violin concertos

21:00 **Banquet in Dąbskich Palace**

The first edition of the Copernicus' De revolutionibus on display

Interpreting regime:

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