



**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau

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**22 February 2024**

**Europe Calling**  
**Who Decides in Europe?**



# Who are we?

## **The EEB is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations**

Our 160 members from 36 countries have more than 30 million individual supporters.

We have 50 years of EU environmental policy expertise.

## **Our vision**

A better future where people and nature thrive together.

## **Our mission**

We are the largest and most inclusive European network of environmental citizens' groups – and the only one that works on such a broad range of issues. We advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.



# What issues do we focus on?

The EEB tackles Europe's most pressing environmental problems by agenda setting, monitoring, advising on and influencing the way these issues are dealt with at global, European and national levels.

## Our work areas



Climate



Nature



Circular  
Economy



Economic  
Transition



European  
Institutions and  
Governance



Global and  
Regional  
Policies



Health  
and  
Environment

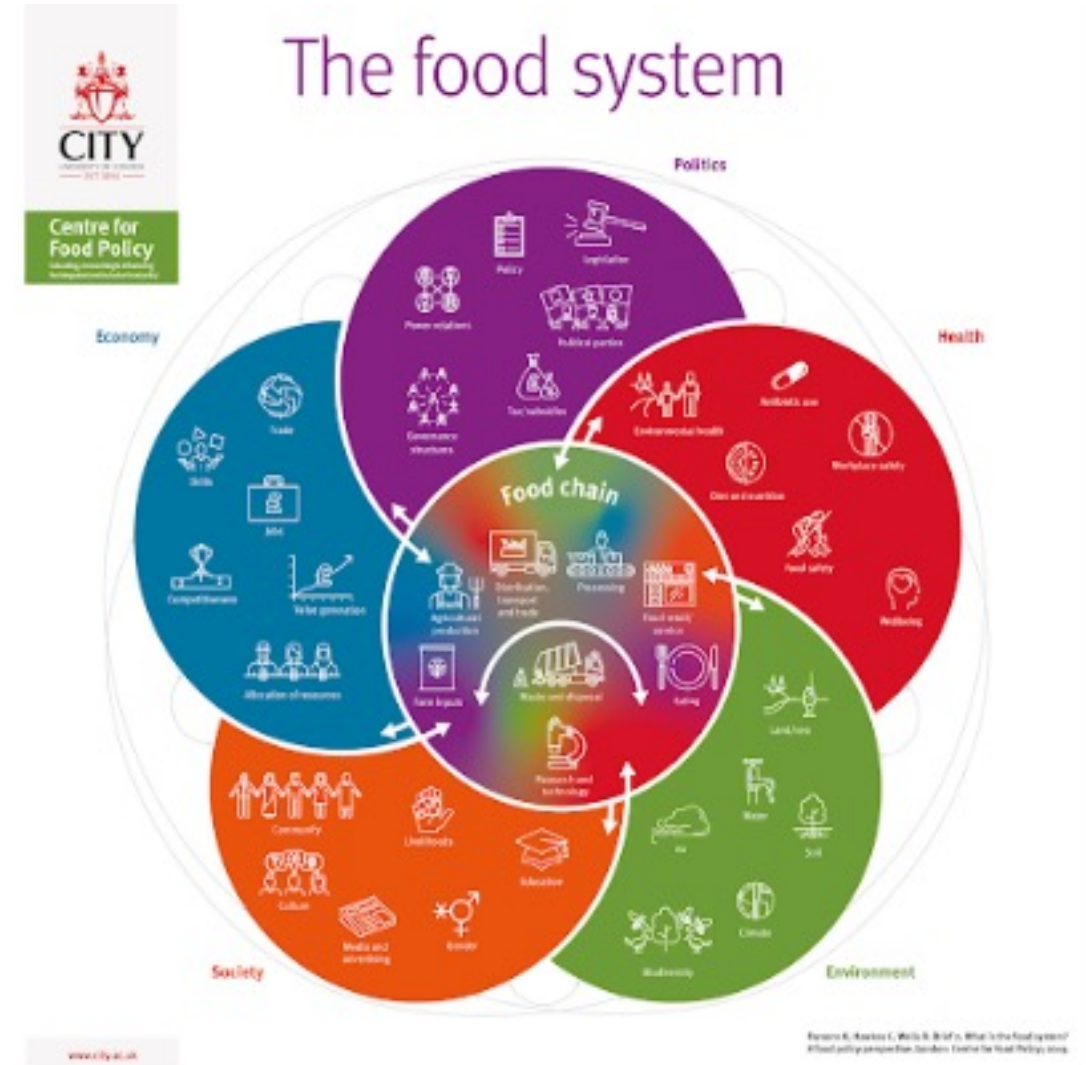


Environmental  
Law and  
Justice

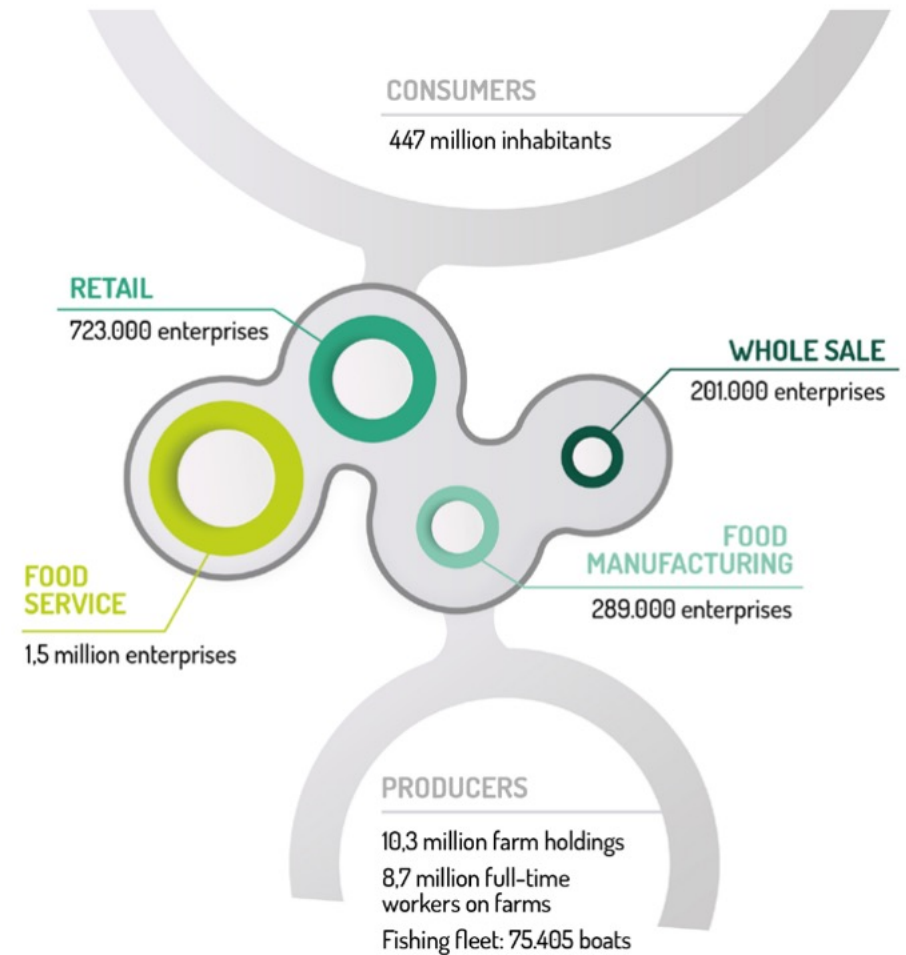


# What is a food system?

- Food systems are complex
- Actors & elements that come together to produce, process, distribute, consume and dispose of food
- The relations between them
- The impacts on the environment, human and animal health, politics, economics, society



# And food environments?





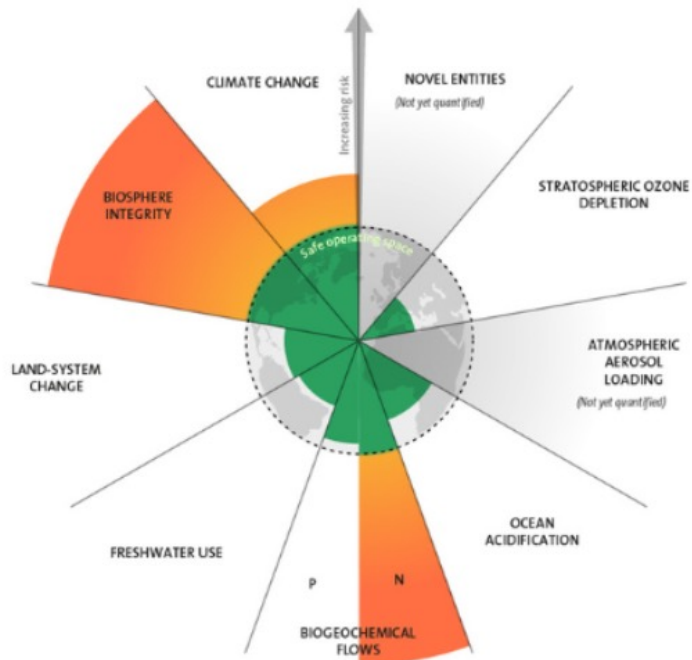
# Where are we now?

- Our food system: environmentally & socially disruptive, economically sustainable for few
- 30% global GHG emissions – agri-food; 970M tonnes EU soil lost/year; 49% EU cardiovascular disease – diets; 20-30% EU food – wasted
- Historical focus on production
- Existing EU food legislation (not an ‘EU food policy’): health & safety of processes and products

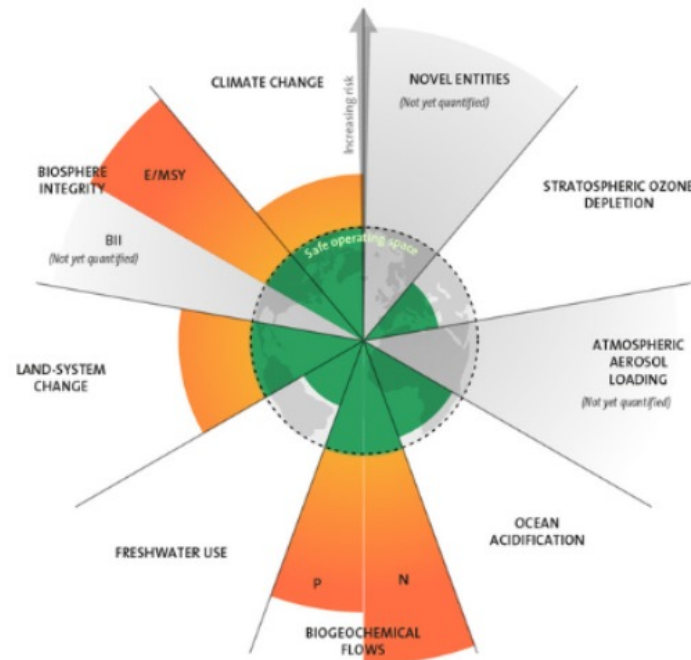


# Why is it not delivering?

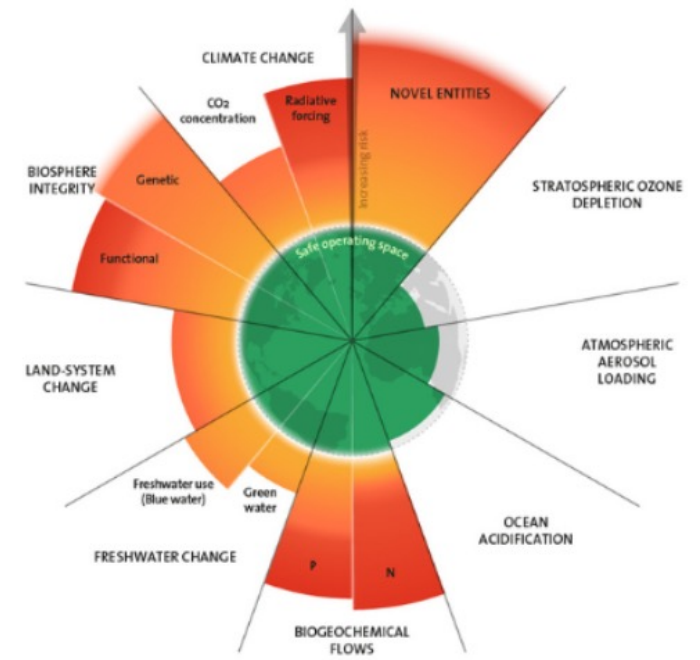
2009



2015



2023





# What is a sustainable food system?

- Healthy diets are accessible [price-wise] and widely accessible, *to everyone*
- Food systems stop damaging nature, contributing instead to its conservation and restoration
- Food democracy: people have a say in what they eat, how it's produced and how profit is distributed
- Workers in every sector are treated and paid adequately and respectfully (fair pay and dignified working conditions)
- Animals don't suffer unnecessarily





# The promise of the Green Deal

- EU “food policy” – historically amounted to agricultural policy (CAP)
- Focus = yield maximisation
- Policy incoherence and conflicting policy objectives = key obstacles to the transition
- The promise of a **systemic approach**: tackling the whole food system as a coherent whole
- Evidence-base targets
- Full recognition of the existential need to preserve and restore nature, tackle our unsustainable approaches to food production and consumption and build a food system that nurtures humans and nature, together
- Years of mounting backlash – why?



# Where to now?

- Real dialogue to build consensus and support
- Citizen involvement and consideration in policy design
  - EU elections



- Cross-cutting support
  - Streamlining action
- Just transition guided by political courage and scientific evidence to ensure our future




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**eeb.org**

**Thanks for listening!**

**Keep in touch**

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