

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

17-18 November
2022 ESPAS Annual Conference

GEOPOLITICS IS BACK

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE EU
IN A WORLD OF SHIFTS AND SHOCKS

EUROPEAN FORESIGHT DAYS



European Strategy and
Policy Analysis System

DAY TWO

Friday, 18 November 2022

11.10-12.10: *Feeding the world? Europe and the future of food security*

Food is a global challenge which was accelerated by the war in Ukraine. We have to deal with it in the short term but also in the long term by finding structural solutions and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

FAO reminded that 828 million faced hunger last year. Latest projections foresee that 8% of the world might still be hungry in 2030, far from the 0% hunger target of SDGs.

Conflict, pandemics and climate change are affecting the way we produce and consume our food. It has already direct consequences in Africa. Our supply chains are under pressure. We face a food access crisis today but we might suffer from a food availability crisis tomorrow. We need to urgently transform our food system.

The panel highlights a number of challenges and way forward:

- Climate crisis is affecting every corner of the planet. We need to invest in long-term solutions to help most vulnerable farmers to prepare for climate disasters.
- Small scale producers remain too far from global climate finance. 1.7% of the money from climate finance reach small scale producers.
- In general small farmers are not enough at the center of policy choices. In Africa they represent 80% of the population and they represent 50% of people who suffer from hunger Policies should be consulted with all relevant stakeholders. We need to work more hand and hand with communities by developing trust with local farmers.
- More than 3.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet; government need to allocate public budget to healthy food with environment friendly practices
- We need to promote agro-ecology
- We need an inclusive economic recovery and growth. The pandemic has increased inequalities. Policies need to address rural poverty and there is an urgent need to stabilize markets and food prizes.
- We must produce more and better with less input. Science and innovation are key accelerators. Knowledge has no boundaries. However, African farmers do not have access to technological climate data to optimize agriculture practices. Agro-climate information are crucial to improve productivity. There is also a need to promote local innovation in Africa and learn from local practices.

- In general, due to past failure to address hunger, there is a need to rethink the global food system. In Africa, little projects which are not sustainable have little impact on structural changes.