

FAO-EU cooperation in delivering the Green Deal and achieving the 2030 Agenda

Robert Tabaszewski

Abstract

The article presents the levels of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Union (EU) in ensuring the European Green Deal as an action plan of the European Commission taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals presented in Agenda 2030. Issues of particular importance for all subjects of agricultural law were presented, including Polish farmers as persons who will be affected by the introduction of transformation in agriculture and the Polish “New Deal” programme. An analysis was made of the extent to which the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and EU documents related to the implementation of the Green Deal in agriculture and the fight against hunger have influenced in strategic cooperation the effective implementation of the strategy adopted in the European Green Deal.

The possible benefits for Poland of a partnership between the two organisations were presented. The key documents on the basis of which the cooperation was established were presented. The extent to which the Green Deal strategy dovetails with FAO’s implementation of goals directly derived from the 2030 Agenda was examined. Potential areas of cooperation between FAO and the EU for the future are identified on the basis of concrete examples.

Keywords: 2030 Agenda, sustainable development goals, European Green Deal, FAO, United Nations, European Union.

Robert Tabaszewski, Ph.D. at law, Department of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Institute of Legal Sciences, Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

Introduction

In recent years, several significant transnational programmes with global impact have been unveiled, committing countries to intensified action on economic and climate transformation. From the Polish point of view, the most serious programmes are those with direct effects on agriculture and fisheries, which were developed by the United Nations (UNO) and the European Union (EU). These include, respectively, the 2030 Agenda, the UNO's operational document for implementing the global agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the European Green Deal, the European Commission's (EC) action plan. The European Green Deal is therefore an EU strategy and is a detailing of a regional global strategy called the Green Deal. It is currently implemented in all EU Member States, including Poland.

The issues related to Poland's implementation of the goals resulting from the 2030 Agenda and the European Green Deal are particularly important for all entities of agricultural law, including Polish farmers and members of their families, as persons who will be affected by the introduction of transformation in agriculture. This is because of a major paradigm shift in food security, which is forcing a re-modelling of how projects in various sectors of the economy, including agriculture, are financed and implemented. Analysing the conditions of implementation of standards related to the European Green Deal, it is impossible not to take into account the achievements of the most important organisation participating in the creation and application of standards of international food law, namely the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which in the last two years has started a close cooperation with the European Commission (EC), the main architect of the European Green Deal.

The aim of this article will be to determine the normative levels of cooperation between two international organisations dealing with the implementation of principles resulting from the 2030 Agenda in the area of sustainable agriculture, combating world hunger and distribution of agricultural products, together with an assessment of the extent to which cooperation in the process of ensuring the so-called Green Deal is effective. FAO-EU cooperation was established in 1991 following the adoption of Agenda 21, and much later Agenda 2030 and other implementing documents related to the implementation of the Green Deal in agriculture and the fight against hunger. The article will verify the main hypothesis that FAO and EU cooperation bears the hallmarks of strategic cooperation. In order to test the hypothesis, the research questions will be answered: 1) what are the key documents on the basis of which the cooperation was established, 2) to what extent the Green Deal strategy

is linked to the implementation by FAO of the objectives resulting directly from the 2030 Agenda, 3) how are the potential fields of cooperation between FAO and the EU shaped, and 4) what are the possible benefits of the strategic partnership of the two organisations. The research, the results of which will be presented, was carried out using the desk research method, combining the study of the content of legal regulations, historical and comparative analysis, as well as the study of quantitative data. The analysis will focus on documents in the field of international food law adopted by FAO as well as fundamental regulations shaping Poland's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the European Green Deal.

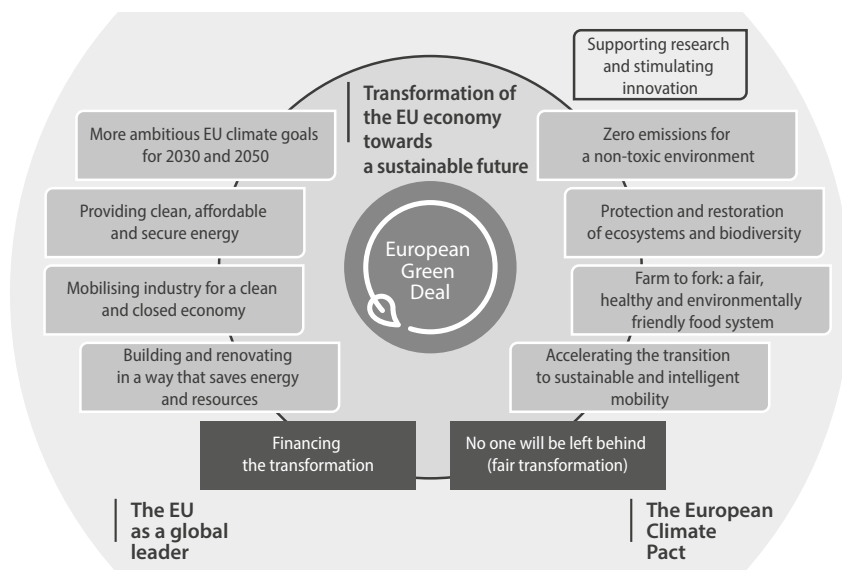
The European Green Deal

The European Green Deal strategy, implemented from 2019 onwards by the EU, is a consequence of the global Green New Deal, the origin of which is considered to be a document called the 1972 UNO Environment Programme (UNEP). At the global level, this strategy was developed and made more concrete by international agreements such as, among others, the Kyoto Agreement, the Berlin Agreement, the Paris Agreement. The latter resulted in the operationalisation of the strategy through the adoption of the UNO Global Plan (Action) entitled "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The 2030 Agenda contains detailed and ambitious goals for sustainable development as a task to be performed by the authorities of all UNO member states, including Poland¹. This document was adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and represents the next step in implementing the principle of sustainable development². Its predecessor was the "United Nations Millennium Development Goals" project (MDGs) implemented by the UNO between 2000 and 2015³. The fundamental principle on which both the MDGs and the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are built is long-term, stable and sustainable development, involving a comprehensive approach that integrates economic, social and environmental considerations⁴. The current 2030 Agenda lists

1. F. Stewart, *The Sustainable Development Goals: A Comment*, "Journal of Global Ethics" 2015, Vol. 11(3), p. 288–293.
2. S. Kumar et al., *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership*, "Indian Journal of Community Medicine" 2016, Vol. 41(1), p. 1–4.
3. UNO, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report*, New York, United Nations 2015.
4. K. Orzeszyna, R. Tabaszewski, *The Legal Aspects of Activities Taken by Local Authorities to Promote Sustainable Development Goals: Between Global and Regional Regulations in Poland*, "Lex Localis – Journal of Local Self-Government" 2021, Vol. 4(19), p. 1048–1049.

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related specific targets. According to the UN, to build an inclusive, environmentally sustainable and economically prosperous society, these tasks must be fully met⁵.

Figure 1. Foundations of the European Green Deal



Source: European Commission, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640&from=DE>, access 1.12.2021.

The entities obliged to implement the SDGs are also EU Member States. With this in mind, the EC has decided to integrate sustainable development objectives with EU priorities. In its Communication of 11 December 2019, the EC explicitly acknowledged that the European Green Deal is an integral part of the UNO’s global Green New Deal strategy with a 2050 horizon. The operationalisation of this strategy is the document “UNO 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals”⁶. The operationalisation of the European Green Deal is the document “Recovery Plan for Europe”, which the EC announced on May 27, 2020. Implementing the European Green Deal is a challenge for all EU Member States.

5. R. Tabaszewski, *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and East Asia: role of regional organisations in monitoring right to good health and well-being*, “Ius Novum” 2019, No. 2, p. 252–253.
 6. European Commission, *Komunikat Komisji do Parlamentu Europejskiego, Rady Europejskiej, Rady, Komitetu Ekonomiczno-Społecznego i Komitetu Regionów. Europejski Zielony Ład*, Brussels, 11.12.2019, COM(2019) 640 final.

This is because the European Council, referring positively to the EC Communication, already on the next day, i.e. on 12 December 2019, declared that the EU will achieve the so-called climate neutrality by 2050, which is partly in line with the postulates included in the so-called Paris Agreement⁷. This ambitious programme calls for a profound transformation of the EU economy and society in order to achieve Europe's climate change objectives, i.e. a net reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels (Figure 1)⁸. As an intermediate step on the road to climate neutrality, the climate target is to be increased in relation to the Paris Agreement arrangements, consisting in reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 as part of the "Fit for 55" package of July 2021.

As the European Green Deal applies to all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, the EC acknowledged that in this sphere, "sustainable food systems become the essential link between human health, the health of societies and the health of the planet". The EC believes that the EU food system is among the fairest in the world in terms of food safety, security of supply, nutritional value and quality of food. The EC considers that action in four areas is key: food security in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, reducing the environmental and climate footprint of the food system, strengthening the resilience of the EU food system, and leading the global transition towards sustainable food production and consumption⁹. The key document in the area of EU food policy which allows for the realisation of the above goals is the EU "Farm to Fork Strategy"¹⁰ presented by the EC in May 2020. An integral part of the European Green Deal in the context of agriculture in general, it addresses the changes needed along the entire food value chain – from production, through food processing to consumption. In this respect, the food standards adopted by the EU directly correspond to the goals expressed in the UNO's 2030 Agenda, including SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnership for goals).

Poland is obliged both to implement 2030 Agenda and to implement the European Green Deal more fully, which may entail additional difficulties due to the fact that it is one of the countries that are trying to extend the use of coal as an energy carrier and postpone the departure from the coal economy in the country.

7. European Council, *Konkluzje w sprawach europejskich*, Brussels 12–13 December 2019, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/pl/meetings/european-council/2019/12/12-13/>, access 1.12.2021.

8. M. Parlińska, J. Jaśkiewicz, I. Rackiewicz, *Wyzwania dla rolnictwa związane ze strategią Europejski Zielony Ład w okresie pandemii*, "Problemy Rolnictwa Światowego" 2020, nr 2, p. 23; A. Tomaszek, *Uregulowania prawne podjęte w celu realizacji założeń Europejskiego Zielonego Ładu. Perspektywa polska*, "Intercathedra" 2021, nr 2(47), p. 85.

9. European Union, https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/agriculture-and-green-deal_pl, access 1.12.2021.

10. European Commission, *Farm to Fork Strategy. For a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system*, Brussels 2020.

In addition, under the United Right government, a rather ambitious program called “Polish Order”¹¹ was adopted. The main message of this document is to stimulate economic growth in Poland, which contradicts the idea of a green deal that focuses on zero growth and climate neutrality rather than absolute economic development¹². Legislation is currently pending on the Agriculture Code, which is intended to free up rural businesses. The adoption of the above documents by Poland is intended to lead to a significant reduction in CO₂ emissions and improve the quality of the environment in Poland, which is to be achieved through investments and support programmes. Some of these programmes could be implemented under the auspices of the FAO and the EU to be fully in line with the European Green Deal and the 2030 Agenda. Given the multiplicity and complexity of regulations recently issued by the above international organisations, it is necessary to present the norms and standards contained therein, which states have committed to achieve within a ten-year time horizon, i.e. by 2030.

Role and tasks of FAO and the implementation of sustainable development principles

All UNO specialised organisations have been involved in the implementation of the SDGs, including the Rome-based UNO Food and Agriculture Organization¹³. It was established at a conference in Quebec City, Canada, on October 16, 1945, on the basis of the International Institute of Agriculture and the Food Committee of the League of Nations¹⁴. FAO currently has 197 members¹⁵. The EU also has membership of this organisation. Poland joined FAO on 9 November 1957. The functioning of the Organisation is based on its constitutional organs: the Conference, the Council and the Director-General, as well as additional subsidiary bodies¹⁶. FAO’s scope

11. Law and Justice Party, Polish Deal [Polski Ład], Warsaw 2021, http://polskilad.pis.org.pl/files/Polski_Lad.pdf, access 1.12.2021.

12. The “Polish Deal” program, consisting of 10 areas concerning the most important aspects in the lives of Poles, directly corresponds to the goals included in the SDGs and to the assumptions of the European Green Deal. In particular, it concerns the areas: “Clean energy, clean air” and “Poland – our earth”.

13. M. Ingelević-Citak, B. Kuźniak, M. Marcinko, *Organizacje międzynarodowe*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2017, p. 104–105.

14. M. Piotrowska, *Organizacja Narodów Zjednoczonych do spraw Wyżywienia i Rolnictwa (FAO)*, “Problemy Integracji Rolnictwa” 1997, nr 2, p. 68.

15. FAO home page: <https://www.fao.org/legal-services/membership-of-fao/en/>, access 1.12.2021.

16. Such bodies include those listed in the FAO Constitution: the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, the Committee on Market Problems, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forests, and the Committee on Agriculture.

of action is quite broad, in accordance with the concept of global governance of food stocks, eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and, more recently, implementation of the concept of sustainable agricultural development has also been included in its scope of action. FAO deals with agriculture in a broad sense, which means that this concept, in addition to agriculture, also includes fisheries, extracted products from the sea, forests and unprocessed forest products, thus the goals: SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land)¹⁷.

The FAO's legal system includes numerous standards on sustainable agriculture and food security, issues that are written into the full implementation of the European Green Deal, in which the EC is primarily involved. FAO collects, researches, interprets and disseminates information on nutrition, food products and agriculture. Without the satisfaction of basic goods, such as healthy, wholesome food, an individual cannot properly exercise his or her rights in the sphere of preserving and caring for their own life and health¹⁸. In keeping with this concept, the World Food Conference recognised in 1974 the inalienable right of every human being to live without hunger, "for the full development of vital physical and mental functions"¹⁹. The World Food Programme (WFP), established at the initiative of the FAO, is also intended to pursue this goal more comprehensively, currently under SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being)²⁰.

The legal system of FAO is formed by conventions and agreements, which find their legal basis in the Constitution of this Organisation. The FAO Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, approve and submit for consideration by its Member States draft conventions and agreements on food and agriculture²¹ (Table 1). The conventions or agreements approved by the Conference or by the Council shall not become binding upon each Member State until it has accepted the convention or agreement in accordance with its own constitutional rules. This means that FAO, unlike the EU, does not directly create binding international law through its resolutions²². The vast majority of FAO's output is therefore soft standards, ranging from recommendations, declarations and recommendations to documents

17. See Article I(1) of the FAO Constitution; Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, FAO, Washington 1947; Polish text: Journal of Laws. 1958 no 57, item 283 and its Annex.

18. H. Nygren-Krug, *The right to health: from concept to practice* [in:] *Advancing the Human Right to Health*, ed. J.M. Zuniga et al., Oxford, OUP, 2013, p. 42; S. Marchisio, A. di Base, *The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, London, Cambridge University Press, 1991.

19. M. Piotrowska, *Organizacja Narodów...*, op. cit., p. 69.

20. T. Srogosz, *Międzynarodowe prawo żywnościowe*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2021, p. 116.

21. The Conference may make recommendations to Member States and Associate Members by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast on matters relating to food and agriculture. See Article IV of the Constitution.

22. T. Srogosz, *Międzynarodowe prawo...*, op. cit., p. 85.

produced at joint meetings of FAO and WHO commissions or non-governmental entities²³. The latter instrument is implemented at expert level in the form of a Joint Meeting²⁴. The work resulted in the development and adoption in 1963 of the Codex Alimentarius – International Food Standards, which aims to protect the health of consumers and establish “global food standards”²⁵.

Table 1. FAO baseline food standards for SDG target 2 (zero hunger)

Document name	Initiator	EU standard	Document purpose
Codex Alimentarius	FAO, WHO	Yes	Establishment of a set of standards, guidelines and codes of conduct for food trade
International Plant Protection Convention	FAO	Yes	Ensuring coordinated, effective action on the prevention, control, introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants and plant products
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	FAO	Yes	The facilitation of the conservation and sustainable use of plant of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their benefits arising from their use

Source: Own elaboration based on literature and FAO documents.

In view of the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals as fully as possible, FAO has joint programmes with regional organisations, including the EU. Some of these initiatives, such as the “Family Farming” programme, are in line with the interests of countries with a higher share of agriculture in national GDP than the EU average (1.4%), such as Poland (3%). The most important documents that currently provide a starting point for dialogue and cooperation between FAO and the EC on climate and environmental challenges are the aforementioned Codex Alimentarius; The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC),

23. See *Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases. Report of a Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation*, WHO, Geneva 2003; *Fruit and Vegetables for Health Report of a Joint FAO/WHO Workshop*, 1–3 September 2004, Kobe, Japan, WHO, Geneva 2004; *Guidelines on Food Fortification with Micronutrients*, World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Geneva 2006.

24. Among the most important are *the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications*.

25. In detail on this subject: S. Kowalczyk, *Prawo czystej żywności. Od Kodeksu Hammurabiego do Codex Alimentarius*, Warszawa, Szkoła Główna Handlowa, 2014; M. Sobieraj, *Codex Alimentarius jako przykład międzynarodowej inicjatywy w zakresie kontroli żywności i ochrony konsumentów* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo Żywności w Erze Globalizacji*, red. S. Kowalczyk, Warszawa, Szkoła Główna Handlowa, 2009; S. Negri, *Food safety and global health: an international law perspective*, “Global Health Governance” 2009, No. 1, p. 10.

which imposes phytosanitary obligations on countries²⁶, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, done at Rome on 3 November 2001 (ITPGRFA)²⁷. FAO is making its resources and expertise available to signatories to the above legal instruments for more effective implementation.

It is worth mentioning other FAO instruments recognised by the EU, such as the Rotterdam Convention, which aims to “protect human health and the environment” from the harmful effects of certain chemicals and pesticides²⁸. In 2004, the FAO adopted *Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food*, which provides guidance for countries implementing this human right in their national health systems²⁹. Of relevance to the European Green Deal is the joint FAO and WHO programme “Sustainable healthy diets”, which the EU intends to use to “reverse the rise in overweight and obesity rates in Member States by 2030”³⁰. According to the EC, reducing the consumption of red and processed meat can not only have a positive impact on the health of Europeans, but also contribute to changing the environmental impact of the food system³¹.

SDGs Legal and institutional background of FAO-EU cooperation on the SDGs

The FAO Constitution and Conventions contain issues that can be indirectly linked to the Green Deal, and the fields of interaction and legal basis between the FAO and the EU have remained almost unchanged for more than thirty years³². The current pattern of enhanced cooperation is made possible by the EU’s membership of the FAO and the common interest. The accession of the European Economic Community (EEC) to FAO on 26 November 1991 was preceded by a Framework

26. The preamble to the Convention sets out the reasons why the parties are adopting the regulation, including with a view to “internationally approved procedures governing the protection of plant, human and animal health and the environment”. See International Plant Protection Convention, 6 December 1951, Rome; Polish text: Dz. U. 2007 nr 73 poz. 485 wraz z załącznikiem.

27. Dz. U. 2006 nr 159 poz. 1128.

28. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries 10 September 1998, Rotterdam (Journal of Laws EU 2003 L 63 item 29).

29. *Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*, FAO, Rome 2005.

30. FAO, WHO, *Sustainable healthy diets – guiding principles*, Rome 2019.

31. European Commission, *Farm to fork strategy...*, op. cit., p. 14.

32. L.E. Nierenberg, *Reconciling the Right to Food and Trade Liberalization: Developing Country Opportunities*, “Minnesota Journal of International Law” 2011, No. 6, p. 619–646; V. Burity, L. Cruz, T. Franceschin, *Exigibilidade: Mechanisms to claim the human right to adequate food in Brazil*, FAO, Rome 2011.

Agreement on mutual cooperation of 6 June 1991. The EEC's accession to FAO is regarded in the literature as an unprecedented event. This is the first time that the Commission of the European Communities (EC) has expressed an immediate interest to the EEC in becoming a member of any of the UNO specialised organisations³³.

The EC Commission drew attention to the role of the FAO as a kind of international negotiation forum in the agricultural market. Without participation in this organisation, the current EU could not play its role properly. The basis for the establishment of further financial and technical cooperation between the two organisations was the Agreement of 27 January 1993³⁴ on technical cooperation procedures to combat global food problems. On its basis, 97 projects were approved between 1991 and 2002 for a total of nearly \$107 million in co-funded assistance programs aimed at eradicating extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition³⁵. This doubled in the following decades, which was particularly important for FAO's implementation of the MDGs.

At present, the EU considers the role of the FAO in the areas of sustainable agriculture, harmonious rural development and food security as important. For the 2018–2020 time horizon, the EU is among FAO's most important partners in terms of contributions made, as well as in the number of joint programmes implemented worldwide, totalling almost half a billion euros³⁶. It is also in Poland's interest to make the FAO strategy as close as possible to the EU agricultural policies, due to the significant value of Polish exports of agri-food products to the EU market. Although European food law is not included in international food law, the EU is involved in major universal initiatives under the auspices of the FAO³⁷. Another argument in favour of dialogue on the FAO-EU line is that both organisations declare the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, not only by supporting the economies of developing countries, but also through humanitarian aid in the form of permanent food supplies, which is in line with Poland's current food policy³⁸.

FAO-EU cooperation is primarily implemented at the political level and builds on the existing institutional structure. The FAO Liaison Office is based in Brussels and works closely with the rotating EU Council Presidencies. At EC level, the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety and the European Commissioner for

33. J. Starzyk-Sulejewska, *Stosunki Unii Europejskiej z Organizacją Narodów Zjednoczonych do spraw Wyżywienia i Rolnictwa (FAO)*, "Stosunki Międzynarodowe" 2016, nr 4(52), p. 107–108.

34. See Agreement on procedures for technical cooperation between the Commission of the European Communities and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome, 27 January 1993.

35. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/3/AD356E/ad356e01.htm>, access 1.12.2021.

36. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/brussels/priorities/european-union-funded-projects/en>, access 1.12.2021.

37. T. Srogosz, op. cit., p. 123.

38. M. Piotrowska, op. cit., p. 71.

Agriculture and Rural Development are responsible for liaising with the Office of the Director-General of FAO³⁹. Strategic partnerships between FAO and the EU are organized every 2–4 years, with the last one held in 2021 and the next one scheduled for 2024. The European Council also has a specific working group on FAO which coordinates the positions of Member States on specific topics for FAO meetings. In connection with the acceleration of the implementation of the European Green Deal, meetings between QU Dongyu, the current Director General of FAO, and the Ministers of Agriculture of all EU Member States are being organized from December 2019. The first meeting of the EU Council of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers took place on December 16, 2019, on cooperation in implementing sustainable forestry commitments⁴⁰.

FAO also works with Members of the European Parliament (EP), particularly within the EP Standing Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI); Development Executive Agency (DEVE); The European Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Agency (ENVI); (PECH); European Agency for Foreign Affairs (AFET)⁴¹. In April 2016, the European Parliamentary Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition was created, bringing together parliamentarians committed to achieving SDG 2 (zero hunger). The meeting, held in December 2019, just before the COVID-19 pandemic was announced, adopted an agenda for action related to achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal: 1) climate change and natural resource management; 2) sustainable supply chains and responsible investment; 3) availability of food for all on a sustainable and healthy access basis; 4) peaceful and humane development; 5) combating extreme poverty and inequality in rural areas. Despite the outbreak of the pandemic, more than a dozen debates and meetings have been organised in the EP and other EU institutions since the beginning of 2020, including the Director-General, on progress related to the implementation of the European Green Deal⁴².

39. Regarding the implementation of the Green Deal, on 6 May 2021, at the initiative of the Commission, a High Level Session was held with the participation of FAO Director General QU Dongyu, Commissioner for International Partnership Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides and Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski.

40. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1255652/icode/?platform=hootsuite>, access 1.12.2021.

41. K. Orzeszyna, M. Skwarzyński, R. Tabaszewski, *Prawo międzynarodowe praw człowieka*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2020, p. 194.

42. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/brussels/news/detail/en/c/1397139>, access 1.12.2021.

Implementation of FAO and EU priorities in the field of the Green Deal

As the analysis so far shows, both FAO and EU bodies have recognised the commonality of purpose and the opportunity to benefit from each other's experience in implementing plans for a European Green Deal. The two organisations have been working together since 2018 to work as fully as possible to achieve SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnership for goals)⁴³. FAO and EU representatives emphasise that as international organisations, they use innovative approaches, tools and products that benefit and serve as agents of positive change for millions of people in developing, emerging and developed countries, in line with the European Green Deal. During a strategic dialogue meeting held in September 2017, the EU and FAO outlined joint priorities and partnership work for 2018–2020 directly related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁴⁴. Priority cooperation has been identified in the following four areas: 1) resilience and food crises; 2) climate change and natural resources management; 3) agricultural investments and sustainable food supply chains; 4) nutrition and sustainable food systems⁴⁵. An analysis of these priorities shows that they correspond directly with the objectives of the European Green Deal (Table 2)⁴⁶.

The first priority mentioned is the prevention and resolution of food crises. This is a fundamental joint FAO-EU objective, which has been in place for more than 30 years and is part of the achievement of SDG 2 (zero hunger). The assistance provided by the EU and FAO to developing countries is humanitarian in nature⁴⁷, which means that it includes emergency assistance to populations in the form of food, seeds for farmers or fodder for animals, as well as longer-term support in the form of non-reliance on loans and external aid, enhancing the dignity and autonomy of farmers and food-insecure people. Unfortunately, this assistance is still insufficient. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, the EU's funding for hunger relief has been

43. See Article I(1) of the FAO Constitution; Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, Washington 1947; Polish text: Journal of Laws. 1958 No 57, item 283 and its Annex.

44. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1040628/icode>, access 1.12.2021.

45. QU Dongyu, J. Urpilainen, *FAO+European Union. Investing in a sustainable and food secure future*, Rome 2021.

46. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/container/news-article/en/c/1039420>, access 1.12.2021.

47. T. Srogosz, op. cit., p. 123.

reduced almost threefold from \$330 million in 2019 to \$122 million in 2020, targeting smallholder farmers in South Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen first⁴⁸.

The second priority, climate change and natural resource management, corresponds directly to the European Green Deal. Thanks to European funds, FAO co-implements programmes addressed to African and South American countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Gabon, Guyana. The implementation of these programmes is intended to facilitate the transformation of typically agricultural countries into food-rich states where care for key natural resources is emphasised. Protecting these resources on a larger scale than ever before is possible with the Hand-in-Hand initiative unveiled on November 8, 2019⁴⁹. It targets primarily the least developed landlocked countries and involves investment in practices, technologies and institutions for transforming agri-food systems, while paying attention to the conservation and use of biodiversity, natural resources and the ecosystem. In 2020, the EU's \$44 million "FISH4ACP" programme to boost sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in line with the UNO's 2020–2030 agenda was launched in coastal countries in Africa and island states in the Caribbean and Pacific⁵⁰.

Agricultural investments and sustainable agricultural production chains are the third joint FAO-EU priority⁵¹. It also includes the inclusion of women and youth in the systemic labour markets of SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). In this regard, cooperation has also been established with the International Labour Organisation under the 2019 programme "United to End Child Labour in Agriculture"⁵². In a jointly issued statement, the organisations pledged to support funding for a more stable business environment and to allow small producers to earn enough money so that they can make a decent living for themselves and their families⁵³. FAO also promotes the development by governments of cooperation with small producers in public-private partnerships, the development of inclusive business models, the implementation of CSR, or corporate social responsibility in agriculture, or responsible land-use planning for agro-industrial development in an innovative economy.

48. QU Dongyu, J. Urpilainen, op. cit., p. 23–31.

49. Ibidem, p. 33

50. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

51. QU Dongyu, J. Urpilainen, op. cit., p. 45–47.

52. European Union, https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/report_childlabourconference_200605_en.pdf, access 1.12.2021.

53. QU Dongyu, J. Urpilainen, op. cit., p. 45.

FAO-EU cooperation in delivering the Green Deal and achieving the 2030 Agenda

Table 2. Programmes for FAO and EU funding in 2018–2020 of the 2030 Agenda targets

Name of the program	Total value of support	Activity area	2030 Agenda objectives
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease	USD 5 million	interregional	SDGs: 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 17
The Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme	USD 52 million	interregional	SDGs: 1, 2
Gender Transformative Approaches Programmes	USD 6 million	global	SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 17
FAO-European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme	USD 35 million	regional: Africa, Asia, South America	SDGs: 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15
Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme	USD 50 million	global	SDGs: 1, 2, 14, 15
Action Against Desertification	USD 22 million	interregional	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17
Supporting local communities and the preservation of ecosystem services in the Amazon region	USD 6 million	regional: South America	SDGs: 1, 2, 13, 15
European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD)	USD 21 million	interregional: Armenia and Georgia	SDGs: 1, 2, 8
Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS)	USD 5 million	global	SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 15, 17
AGRINTEL	USD 5 million	global	SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 17
Afiikepo – Nutrition Programme	USD 44 million	Regional: Malawi	SDGs: 1, 5, 6, 17

Source: Own study based on literature, reports and other FAO and EU documents.

A final priority area of cooperation relates to supporting the development of systems that deliver wholesome and sustainable food. FAO and the EU are working with countries to develop sustainable food systems, which is fully in line with SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land). Representatives from both organisations note that eliminating hunger on a global scale is only possible using innovative supply chains operated by smallholder farmers in effective collaboration with governments, civil society, the private sector, academia,

research centres and cooperatives. Food insecurity can be overcome through mutual knowledge and comparative advantage⁵⁴.

Adopted in June 2021, the document “FAO+European Union. Investing in a sustainable and food secure future” confirms the partial realisation of the above objectives of FAO-EU cooperation in ensuring the Green Deal and implementing Agenda 2030⁵⁵. This document is now the most important record of the 2018–2020 Partnership Programme and a strategy designing the joint FAO-EU cooperation framework for the future. Over a three-year time horizon, the two organisations have committed to working together to solve food crises, address humanitarian problems in agriculture, and develop strategies to control locusts and other pests⁵⁶. The EU supports FAO by providing direct technical and scientific assistance through its Joint Research Centre (JCR). The research has resulted in a joint report for the United Nations in 2018 titled “The State of Food Security and Partnership at a glance Nutrition in the World” and the release of the second edition of “The State of the World’s Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture” in 2021.

Summary

The analysis confirms that full achievement of climate neutrality and full implementation of all the targets contained in the 2030 Agenda and resulting from the Green Deal is a challenge for all FAO and EU members, including Poland. The achievement of the objective set out in the introduction is confirmed, at least formally, by key documents, including the 2021 Joint FAO-EU Strategy, on the basis of which effective cooperation was established. The thesis of the article was positively verified that the two organisations have been working productively together since 2018 to implement the European Green Deal. However, it seems that there are still some challenges in the “green” transition of FAO and EU supported countries. FAO and EU support should continue to be global, which means that financially it should not be directed at continental countries but outwards to help developing countries. Hence, areas of cooperation between FAO and the EU should continue to address issues related to achieving the goals expressed in the 2030 Agenda. These goals are SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic

54. FAO, <https://www.fao.org/brussels/partners/partnerships/en>, access 1.12.2021.

55. QU Dongyu, J. Urpilainen, *op. cit.*

56. *Ibidem*, p. 10.

growth), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnership for goals), and they have been confirmed in the European Green Deal. The effect of even partial implementation of the above points may be not only the reduction of CO₂ emissions and improvement of the quality of the environment, which is the main objective of the Green Deal. An additional effect, apart from leading to a zero-emission economy, which is a challenge for countries such as Poland, may also be the construction of new production and supply chains of wholesome and healthy food in those regions of the world which have so far been considered peripheral.

Bibliography

- Burity V., Cruz L., Franceschin T.**, *Exigibilidade: Mechanisms to claim the human right to adequate food in Brazil*, FAO, Rome 2011.
- Dongyu Q.U., Urpilainen J.**, *FAO+European Union. Investing in a sustainable and food secure future*, Rome 2021.
- FAO**, *Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, FAO, Washington 1947; Journal of Laws 1958 No 57 item 283 and its Annex.
- FAO**, *International Plant Protection Convention*, 6 December 1951, Rome; Journal of Laws 2007 No 73 item 485 and its Annex.
- FAO**, *Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*, Rome 2005.
- FAO**, *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries*, 10 September 1998, Rotterdam; Journal of Laws EU 2003 L 63 item 29.
- FAO/EWG**, *Porozumienie w sprawie procedur współpracy technicznej między Komisją Wspólnot Europejskich a Organizacją Narodów Zjednoczonych do spraw Wyżywienia i Rolnictwa*, Rome, 27 January 1993.
- FAO/WHO**, *Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases. Report of a Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation*, WHO, Geneva 2003.
- FAO/WHO**, *Fruit and Vegetables for Health Report of a Joint FAO/WHO Workshop*, 1–3 September 2004, Kobe, Japan, WHO, Geneva 2004.
- Ingelević-Citak M., Kuźniak B., Marcinko M.**, *Organizacje międzynarodowe*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2017.
- EC**, *Komunikat Komisji do Parlamentu Europejskiego, Rady Europejskiej, Rady, Komitetu Ekonomiczno-Społecznego i Komitetu Regionów. Europejski Zielony Ład*, Brussels, 11.12.2019, COM(2019) 640 final.
- EC**, *Farm to Fork Strategy. For a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system*, Brussels 2020.

FAO-EU cooperation in delivering the Green Deal and achieving the 2030 Agenda

- Kowalczyk S.**, *Prawo czystej żywności. Od Kodeksu Hammurabiego do Codex Alimentarius*, Warsaw, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, 2014.
- Kumar S. et al.**, *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership*, "Indian Journal of Community Medicine" 2016, Vol. 41(1).
- Marchisio S., Base A. di.**, *The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, London, Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Negri S.**, *Food safety and global health: an international law perspective*, "Global Health Governance" 2009, Vol. 1.
- Nierenberg L.E.**, *Reconciling the Right to Food and Trade Liberalization: Developing Country Opportunities*, "Minnesota Journal Of International Law" 2011, No. 6.
- Nygren-Krug H.**, *The right to health: from concept to practice* [in:] *Advancing the Human Right to Health*, ed. J.M. Zuniga et al., Oxford, OUP, 2013.
- UNO**, *Guidelines on Food Fortification with Micronutrients*, World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Geneva 2006.
- UNO**, *United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report*, New York, United Nations 2015.
- Orzeszyna K., Tabaszewski R.**, *The Legal Aspects of Activities Taken by Local Authorities to Promote Sustainable Development Goals: Between Global and Regional Regulations in Poland*, "Lex Localis – Journal of Local Self-Government" 2021, Vol. 4(19).
- Orzeszyna K., Skwarzyński M., Tabaszewski R.**, *Prawo międzynarodowe praw człowieka*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2020.
- Parlińska M., Jaśkiewicz J., Rackiewicz I.**, *Wyzwania dla rolnictwa związane ze strategią Europejski Zielony Ład w okresie pandemii*, "Problemy Rolnictwa Światowego" 2020, nr 2.
- Piotrowska M.**, *Organizacja Narodów Zjednoczonych do spraw Wyżywienia i Rolnictwa (FAO)*, "Problemy Integracji Rolnictwa" 1997, nr 2.
- Law and Justice party**, *Polish Deal*, Warsaw 2021, http://polskilad.pis.org.pl/files/Polski_Lad.pdf, access 1.12.2021.
- European Council**, *Konkluzje w sprawach europejskich*, Brussels 12–13 December 2019, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/pl/meetings/european-council/2019/12/12–13/>, access 1.12.2021.
- Sobieraj M.**, *Codex Alimentarius jako przykład międzynarodowej inicjatywy w zakresie kontroli żywności i ochrony konsumentów* [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo Żywności w Erze Globalizacji*, ed. S. Kowalczyk, Warsaw, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, 2009.
- Srogosz T.**, *Międzynarodowe prawo żywnościowe*, Warsaw, C.H. Beck, 2020.
- Starzyk-Sulejewska J.**, *Stosunki Unii Europejskiej z Organizacją Narodów Zjednoczonych do spraw Wyżywienia i Rolnictwa (FAO)*, "Stosunki Międzynarodowe" 2016, nr 4(52).
- Stewart F.**, *The Sustainable Development Goals: A Comment*, "Journal of Global Ethics" 2015, Vol. 11(3).
- Tabaszewski R.**, *Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe and East Asia: role of regional organizations in monitoring right to good health and well-being*, "Ius Novum" 2019, nr 2.

Tomaszek A., *Uregulowania prawne podjęte w celu realizacji założeń Europejskiego Zielonego Ładu. Perspektywa polska*, "Intercathedra" 2021, nr 2(47).

received: 28.10.2021
accepted: 03.12.2021

This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC BY 4.0)

