

**POLICY DOCUMENT**

**Title:** Policy making to combat food waste  
**Organisation:** Democratic Rally Party Youth (NEDISY)  
**Date:** 19/10/2022

**Summary – introduction: (120 – 150 words):**

Food waste and the elimination of hunger are two interrelated issues that, with proper handling and appropriate legislative reforms, could be combated.

The cost associated with food waste has at least two components: economic and environmental cost. From an environmental point of view, food waste is equivalent to a waste of resources used throughout the product's life cycle and contributes to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal of this policy document is to encourage the reduction of waste and promote legislative procedures to facilitate the donation of food, that would otherwise end up as waste, to those in need. A combination of the tax reliefs for businesses that will take part in such initiatives, together with the corresponding legislative regulations, a social, economic and environmental solution is considered feasible. The aim is for businesses and the civil society to benefit from such policies.

Notably, a similar bill was voted by the French Parliament in February 2016. In the same manner, we propose developing a campaign to promote “rational purchasing” and correct management of products, so as to buy and consume only the necessary quantities of products, without creating excess waste and polluting the environment even further.

**Policy positions: (bullet-point)**

- Promote legislation that prohibits supermarkets and related businesses from destroying food packages. Instead, promote incentives to donate the excess of products to charities. Through this policy, food providers will be obliged to dispose their leftovers to organized groups or voluntary organizations, which will be responsible to distribute these products to families in need.
- Subsidy of a composting mechanism for households with the aim of reducing food waste. Apart from the economic benefits, this practice can help protect the environment and enhance the concept of "green cities", through the production of compost for personal use.
- Policy promotion at national and local level.

- Promotion of reliable information about the positive results that the implementation of such policies can bring at a social, economic and ecological level.
- Simultaneous combat of the environmental impact created by food waste and dealing with the problem of hunger.
- Strengthen the activities of organized groups and charitable actions.
- Promotion of environmental awareness through innovative practices to protect the environment and reduce food waste.
- Provision of tax deductions as incentives to businesses that comply with the relevant policies.
- Reduction of the hyperconsumerism of modern society.
- Formation of conscientious citizens to both social and environmental issues.