

Berlin, 13 October 2022

FEBA Annual Convention 2022 Europe in Crisis, Food Banks in Action

Since the beginning of 2022, the quantity of food redistributed food by FEBA Members has been deeply affected by the Ukraine crisis. We have seen an increase in donations in Eastern Europe as a result of exceptional contributions in response to the war in Ukraine to support refugees. However, at the same time, quantities of redistributed food have decreased in Western Europe.

In addition to the war in Ukraine, the first half of 2022 was also deeply affected by the **aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic** and some **radical climatic and environmental changes**, which have had a **major impact on some agricultural products and have increasingly affected food systems.**

Regarding end beneficiaries, **two out of three FEBA Members (66%) have experienced an increase in the amount of food requested by charities.** More than 80% of respondents identified the largest group of final beneficiaries as families with children and single parents, followed by elderly people, and refugees from Ukraine.¹

This is a difficult period with an uncertain outlook, however, **FEBA Members continue to work hard facing the challenge not just to prevent good surplus food from becoming food waste but also to ensure its safe delivery and redistribution to charities helping people in need.**

Solidarity and collaboration will be a crucial way of coming out of these challenging times better, stronger, and together. The support of public authorities, businesses, charities, volunteers, and citizens has proven that it is possible to grow through adversity.

On 13-14 October in Berlin FEBA organises its Annual Convention 2022 entitled “Europe in crisis, Food Banks in action”, in collaboration with Tafel Deutschland e.V.. The conference will bring together 73 participants from 25 different countries including FEBA Members, officials from European institutions and international organisations, business partners, leading experts, and other NGOs as well as 151 delegates from Tafel Deutschland e.V.. They will come together to discuss and exchange best practices to alleviate the repercussions of the current crisis and plan for how to become more resilient to future shocks.

Jacques Vandenschrik, President of the European Food Banks Federation said: **“In this time of crisis we are even more against waste – waste of food, waste of resources, and even more waste of people. We cannot just talk about tackling food waste and reducing food insecurity. We must take action and help those who take action every day.”**

Jonathan Bennet, External Relations Director at General Mills stated: **“FEBA’s report reveals the devastating impact that the war in Ukraine has had on both the supply and demand for food from Food Banks. Whilst organisations have done everything they can to get more food to Ukraine and to refugees in neighbouring countries the amount of food available to Food Banks in many countries in Western Europe has declined due to rising energy and distribution costs as a result of the war.**

¹ European Food Banks Federation, [“Assessment of FEBA Members’ Activities. July 2021 to June 2022”](#), September 2022.

Two thirds of FEBA members say they have seen an increase in need, which highlights the critical lifeline Food Banks provide for millions of people, including alarming numbers of children.”

Jochen Brühl, Chairman, Tafel Deutschland e.V. said: ***“We live in troubled times. First the pandemic, now the war in Ukraine: both crises have global consequences and contexts. The partnership and cooperation with food banks in Europe is of immense significance for Tafel Deutschland and we take our responsibility in this network of food banks very seriously. I am pleased that our colleagues from 28 countries are our guests in Berlin for this convention and that we can jointly work on solutions for these huge challenges that we are currently facing.”***

Several distinguished guests will contribute to the event, including: **Ruth Paserman**, Director, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission; **Alexandra Nikolakopoulou**, Head of Unit, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission; **Jonathan Bennet**, External Relations Director, General Mills; **Rosa Rolle**, Food Loss and Waste Team Leader, FAO; **Fabien Santini**, Deputy Head of Unit, European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism (EFSCM), European Commission.

The FEBA Annual Convention 2022 will also host an international panel with the following speakers outlining a wider vision of possible actions to mitigate the effects of global crisis: **Brooks Reed**, VP of Business Development, CAF America; **Jacques Vandenschrik**, President, European Food Banks Federation; **Friederike Meister**, Senior Advocacy Director, Global Citizen; **Chris Rebstock**, Field Services Director, The Global FoodBanking Network.

To learn more, please **join us for the live web streaming** on 13-14 October by visiting annualconvention.eurofoodbank.org.

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For more information

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About the European Food Banks Federation

The European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) is a European non-profit organisation and works in collaboration with 24 Full Members and 6 Associate Members in 30 European countries. Since 1986, FEBA's mission has consisted in representing its membership at European and international level; supporting and strengthening Food Banks in Europe by providing training, sharing best practices and knowledge, establishing partnerships; and fostering the creation and development of new Food Banks. FEBA brings together a network of Food Banks which are committed to prevent food waste and to reduce food insecurity.

In 2021, the 341 Food Banks belonging to our membership redistributed 907,280 tonnes of food to 45,810 charitable organisations providing food assistance to 11.8 million most deprived people thanks to the professionalism of 39,781 co-workers (83% volunteers). In addition to surplus food from the food supply chain, FEBA Members also redistribute food from the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and the EU Fruits and Vegetables withdrawal scheme, as well as from individual and corporate food collections.