

Draft programme**Ethical trade market mechanisms for
promoting health and safety and decent
working conditions in EU agriculture**

Workshop jointly organised by the SafeHabitus project and EU-OSHA

Date: **27th January 2026 (09.15 – 13.00)**

Location: **Online via Zoom – [Register here](#)**



**With the
support from:**



Objectives of the workshop

SafeHabitus Policy Workshops aim to synthesize the latest and most relevant scientific research and practical insights from a wide variety of stakeholders. Through this latest workshop, we will debate and share perspectives among stakeholders and policymakers directly involved in ethical trade market mechanisms and their impact on occupational safety and health (OSH) and decent working conditions in the EU agricultural sector and beyond. By gathering the latest evidence, we will provide policymakers with the knowledge and evidence needed to support positive change and improve working conditions in the sector.

We will draw on selected European and international examples and provide agriculture and occupational health and safety stakeholders with the opportunity to exchange knowledge and perspectives on how working conditions in farming can be improved for all farmers and farm workers.

The seminar is divided into three distinct parts; an overview of existing mechanisms and how they integrate OSH and decent work considerations into agricultural activities; an expert debate on the merits of each of the systems; and a policy round table to discuss what changes would be necessary to enhance and extend such systems across other farms, agricultural concerns, sectors and geographical regions.

During the Policy Webinar, SafeHabitus will present its forthcoming report on CSR market mechanisms for improving decent work in EU agriculture. The report will analyze how corporate social responsibility (CSR) measures and human rights due diligence led by large retailers affect labour conditions across two strawberry supply chains: Morocco→United Kingdom and Huelva (Spain)→Germany. It will examine the design and implementation of these mechanisms and how they impact directly or indirectly on the workers through purchasing/procurement, importation, intermediation, verification/certification, supply and production, with a specific focus on labour rights and on preventing risks affecting migrant and seasonal workers. The analysis will consider how corporate commitments are governed, prioritised and enforced along the chain, their actual coverage (including where agents and cooperatives are involved), and their coherence with commercial dynamics (prices, lead times and supply conditions). On this basis, the report will identify strengths, weaknesses and tensions in the governance architecture and in its practical application; assess the effects on hiring, employment stability, working conditions, and health and safety; and determine the extent to which these approaches prevent exploitation or, alternatively, shift risks onto the most vulnerable links. Building on this assessment, it will present conclusions and recommendations aimed at strengthening prevention and creating market conditions that favour ethical and safe agricultural work in both chains.

Programme

09.15 – 09.25	<p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Meredith, TEAGASC (SafeHabitus project coordinator) - William Cockburn, Executive Director, EU Agency for Safety and Health at Work <p>Workshop moderation: Alun Jones, CIHEAM Zaragoza (SafeHabitus policy lead)</p>
09.25 – 10.25	<p style="text-align: center;">OVERVIEW OF EXISTING MECHANISMS AT EU AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL</p> <p>Chair – Sandra Schiavi, International Association of Work in Agriculture (University of Maringa, Brasil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LIFT-OSH – EU overview of the implementation of non-regulatory tools and mechanisms for improving occupational safety and health, Dietmar Elsner, EU-OSHA - Safehabitus report on CSR market mechanisms for improving decent work in EU agriculture, Carlos Ruiz Ramirez, Oxfam Intermon - Improving safety and health in agricultural global supply chains, Maria Munaretto, Project Coordinator, Vision Zero ILO - Occupational Safety and Health in the banana sector in Ecuador and Cameroon, Victor Prada FAO, Secretary of the World Banana Forum secretariat
10.25 – 10.35	<p style="text-align: center;">BREAK</p>
10.35 – 11.45	<p style="text-align: center;">EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>How ethical trade market mechanisms can support compliance with EU OSH legislation and ILO agriculture safety and health Convention C188 and Recommendation R192</p> <p>Chair – Christine Campeau, International Decent Work for Equitable Food Systems Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spanish Ethical Trade Forums, Sergio Barbara - Dafni Skalidou/Carlos Oya, authors of the Evidensia report on “How effective are supply chain approaches in the agriculture sector” - tbc - Expert/Compliance auditor, FLOCERT (Fairtrade International Auditor – Implementation of OSH and social measures (partic. OSH Annex) - tbc - Expert/Compliance auditor on OSH and labour conditions, Global GRASP (Global GAP Risk Assessment on social practice) Bureau Veritas, Italy - tbc - Tesseltje de Lange, Dignity Firm, Horizon Europe <p>Debate around key set of pre-defined questions (no presentations). Questions may also be accepted from public.</p>

<p>11.45 – 12.45</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">POLICY DISCUSSION ROUND TABLE</p> <p>EU policy options to support voluntary ethical trade market mechanisms to improve OSH and decent work in the EU agricultural sector</p> <p>Chair - Alun Jones, CIHEAM/SafeHabitus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eric Sergiacomo, Vice-President EP AGRI, S&D, MEP - tbc - Stoyan Tchoukanov, EESC President NAT Section - Maria Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa, Head of Unit, Social Sustainability, DG AGRI - tbc - Claudia MERLINO, President GEOPA - tbc - Enrico Somaglia, EFFAT General Secretary - Mariangels Fortuny, Head of Unit; Decent work in the rural economy Coordinator <p>Short 4-minute statement followed by Q and A and discussion around pre-defined key questions.</p>
<p>12.45 – 13.00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>Chair - David Meredith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synopsis of key policy issues and next steps – Alun Jones and Carlos Ruiz Ramirez - Closing remarks – David Meredith





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