



# Food security and preparedness

**We call on the European Commission to take the following concrete steps to strengthen EU preparedness and food security:**

- 1** Introduce a mandatory “Food Security Test” in impact assessments to ensure food security is systematically considered in EU policymaking
- 2** Recognise European shelf-stable packaged foods and beverages as a strategic asset and embed them in EU and national preparedness and stockpiling plans, including the 72-hour emergency kit
- 3** Make food security a permanent pillar of the EU Agri-Food Days, reflecting its central role in food systems resilience and stability

Tetra Pak is a global advanced manufacturer delivering food processing and food packaging solutions, providing end-to-end solutions for food and beverage manufacturers. Through its solutions, Tetra Pak helps to ensure the highest standards of food safety and operational performance, while actively supporting European food and beverage producers to reduce their environmental footprint. As part of the often overlooked yet essential “Hidden Middle” of Europe’s food systems, Tetra Pak plays a critical role in delivering both food security and low-carbon circularity across Europe.



**Food security is a foundational element of societal resilience. As defined at the World Food Summit, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. This objective rests on four interdependent pillars:**

**1**

**Physical availability of food**

**2**

**Economic and physical access to food**

**3**

**Food utilisation, including nutritional adequacy**

**4**

**Stability of the other three dimensions over time**

At a time when Europe's security, resilience, and territorial integrity are increasingly under pressure, the European Union must adopt a **robust and fail-safe approach to preparedness**. Ensuring food security in all circumstances, including crisis and disruption scenarios, must be a central component of this approach.



## About the product

Tetra Pak's **aseptic food technologies and food packaging solutions** play a vital role in safeguarding the availability of safe and affordable packaged staple foods and beverages. These technologies enable long-term storage without the use of preservatives or refrigeration, while protecting nutritional value and food safety for extended periods. In doing so, these advanced European technologies significantly reduce food loss and waste which contributes to food, environmental and economic security. In crisis situations, including natural disasters, energy disruptions, cyberattacks or geopolitical shocks, food systems may fail. In such contexts, **shelf-stable, ready-to-consume packaged foods and beverages can provide a reliable source of nutrition**. Shelf-stable packaged products can be stored and transported efficiently, with minimal logistical requirements, making them particularly suitable for emergency preparedness and response.

**Tetra Pak supports the objectives set out in the Preparedness Union Strategy**, which rightly seeks to embed preparedness by design across EU policy frameworks. Food security is identified as an important component of crisis preparedness, including within the EU's Stockpiling Strategy.

**However, the specific contribution of shelf-stable, affordable packaged foods and beverages with high nutritional value is not yet sufficiently acknowledged or operationalised within current preparedness measures.**



## We call on the European Commission to take the following concrete actions:

1

**Introduce a mandatory Food Security Test within the European Commission's impact assessment process.** This measure would ensure that food security and preparedness considerations are systematically reflected in EU decision-making and unintended, real world, consequences are avoided at an early stage. Importantly, this proposal does not introduce new or burdensome requirements beyond those already foreseen in the 2025 Better Regulation Toolbox. Rather, it represents a light-touch but mandatory check to assess whether legislative proposals, non-legislative initiatives, and implementing or delegated acts may have implications for food security mirroring the "SMEs Test".

2

**Recognise European shelf-stable packaged foods and beverages as a strategic asset and embed them in EU and national preparedness and stockpiling plans, including the 72-hour emergency kit.** Shelf-stable packaged foods and beverages should be recognised as a strategic asset and form an integral part of EU and national food reserves and preparedness strategies.

3

**Make food security a permanent pillar of the EU Agri-Food Days, reflecting its central role in food systems resilience and stability.** Fora for discussion such as the EU Agri-Food Days where farmers, producers, retailers and consumers gather to discuss the future of the EU's food and agriculture should address food security as a central piece of the stability of the entire food system.

### About Tetra Pak

Tetra Pak is a food processing and packaging solutions company that operates in over 160 countries worldwide, with more than 24,000 employees. Tetra Pak invests €100 million per year in packaging sustainability and innovation: aiming to develop food packaging made entirely of renewable or recycled materials, in addition to [commitments to reach net-zero emissions in our operations by 2030 and our value chain by 2050](#). We are also the first packaging company to sign up to the [EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices](#).