

Framing Food Security in the EU

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Abstract: Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drastically disrupted food chains, threatened global population well-being and raised the prospect of a collapse in agri-food-related realms across the world. Food security has once again become a major source of worry and a top priority on the European public agenda. The public sphere has experienced a revival of this notion and relevant actors are calibrating their communication strategy around this concept. Despite being recognized as having one of the most effective systems for ensuring the quantity and the quality of food, the European Union has started to communicate constantly on issues of food security. Pan-European press, such as Euractiv, has begun to devote particular attention to this subject. The objective of this paper is to identify European media patterns of the concept of food security and to classify useful interpretation grids that meet newsworthiness criteria, using framing theory, in order to observe how they functions in relation to communication purposes. It uses an exploratory approach with quantitative and qualitative methods for a fruitful understanding of the concept within broader notions of the mass communication process.

Keywords: *food, security, framing, policy, newsworthiness.*

How to cite: Balanuta, L. (2022). Framing Food Security in the EU. *Logos Universality Mentality Education Novelty: Political Sciences and European Studies*, 7(1), 46-71. <https://doi.org/10.18662/lumenpses/7.1/30>

Introduction

Following the 1970s Food Crisis, the term "food security", as we understand it today, has begun to take shape, although concerns about feeding the population existed particularly after World War Two. Throughout the years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) became the main source for defining the concept. Back then, the notion started to widen from a concern that was previously limited to the agriculture sector, to a major issue associated with poverty and development, as Show (2007, p. 383) underlines. Peng & Berry (2019) highlight the evolution of the concept and its dependence on multiple levels due to the fact that four components of food security have been recognized at an international level: *availability, accessibility, utilization and stability*. When we speak about food security we imply a need for the identification of straightforward shortfalls that may serve as the foundation for policy setting. The opposite term – *insecurity* – refers to a vulnerable state of being and the first way to analyse what food insecurity may do is to know why certain people experience it and the impact that it can have on them and their communities. Food passes from production to consumption and entails a variety of processes such as production, processing, distribution, retailing and consumption.

It is well known that conflict is a driving force of hunger in the world and food insecurity is often used as a weapon (Messer, Cohen & Marchione, 2001). In the case of increased tragedies carried on by wars, the destruction of infrastructure and limited market access often drive up the price of agricultural goods and services or make them totally inaccessible. However, they fall short of capturing the complexity of the food chain. In the view of Eddy & Fletcher (2022) war itself is by far a newsworthy element and it is also "important for newsrooms to refocus efforts around explaining its wider implications".

Since the middle of 2020, the price of agricultural commodities has been steadily increasing. After the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic's, macroeconomic conditions started worsening and an escalation of the problem has begun to make itself felt. The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, had numerous consequences for every component of the supply chain and had a significant impact on the rise in production prices, exacerbating these issues to an unprecedented level (Husain, 2022). Both Russia and Ukraine are economic powerhouses of farm products and they both supply a majority of the world's feed and fertilizer markets, where exportable commodities are frequently centralized in a small handful of

regions (Council, 2022). Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a resolution on the need for an immediate EU action plan to guarantee food security both inside and outside the EU was passed in March (Parliament, 2022). By creating barriers to physical access to inputs and causing damage to local infrastructure and agricultural land with immediate effects in the neighborhood, this conflict has all the arguments to bring food security as top priority of the European public agenda. Food availability is not at risk for the EU, if we refer to the main aspects of food security underlined before, but accessibility, especially for low-income people, is a major concern.

In order to meet public expectations, effective communication is crucial. By outlining the methods that are used to communicate within a field that is apparently too technical, the ongoing efforts to address society's concerns through active consultation and feedback, demonstrate a commitment to raise awareness. Stronger knowledge is needed in order for food security to be revealed to the general public in an effort to explain the problem.

Traditionally, conventional institutional media has dominated EU coverage and it is only in the last few years that new professionals have begun to challenge it (Baisnée, 2002). Speaking about the coverage of food security by European media outlets we can observe numerous articles which have been published since Russia's invasion in Ukraine. It is also the case with Euractiv, which, according to GSC (2021), is one of the top three most influential media outlets in terms of EU affairs. The paper evaluates the volume of reporting, story framing and meaning of food security in one of the most important Pan-European media outlets, while developing useful methods and clear objectives. The research focuses on what is known and unknown about how to effectively explain a topic of such seriousness and depth inside the European Union, a political and economic union that has structured a series of ambitious environmental guidelines that come into contact with one of its most stable and representative policies - the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The CAP represents a range of legislative instruments that provide income assistance, market and rural development assessments to farmers in order to conserve rural landscapes and the environment while increasing agricultural output (Caprile & Pichon, 2022).

Theoretical framework

Drawn from the broader framework of Bateson's (1972) *Steps to an ecology of mind: Collected essays in anthropology, psychology, evolution*

and epistemology and later in Goffman's (1974) *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*, as a mass communication theory it soon became, framing refers to the delivery of the information by the media, the package it uses and the context it offers, with the objective of guiding the audience towards a simple and objective interpretation grid. According to this, media creates a cutout of reality and inserts it into a screen composed of several contextualised elements. These cutouts act as frames that improve understanding and link general audience knowledge with instances of the media message. Moreover, they are based on the belief that audiences understand a problem that is outlined in media reports. Framing has been shown to be extremely effective in political communication for studying how media exposure can influence public opinion (Chong & Druckman, 2007).

Media outlets present a story within specific time and space limitations. There is a common awareness of frames as structures that stress certain elements of information while obscuring others. The methods implemented to amplify one particular piece of data over others can be quite diverse. The notion of frame intersects with newsworthiness criteria and the judgement made by a journalist in this regard impacts the selection of elements that will eventually become news. Semetko & Valkenburg (2000, p. 93) points out that "framing analysis shares with agenda-setting research a focus on the relationship between public policy issues in the news and the public perceptions of these issues." The current study will also compare the variety of attributes in the news and the specific ways of framing food security in a bid to illustrate how society sees this concept. In order to do so I will use Entman's (1991) taxonomy of identifying interpretation grids for framing news stories: conflict, human interest/personalisation, economic consequence, morality and responsibility, underlined and updated also by Semetko & Valkenburg (2000). The purpose of such a task is to define the existence of particular frames through an overall assessment of the content of news articles.

Methodology

To begin with, this study will trace the evolution of the topic of food security on the Euractiv official website over the last 10 years in order to highlight the relevance of this theme. This study uses quantitative and qualitative methods, including content analysis, in order to explore news articles in Euractiv on food security. The analysis is envisaged as a full inventory system of the concerns related to food security starting from the

24th of February (the day of Russia's invasion in Ukraine) until the 31st of July 2022, filtering results after a fine search using the terms *food security* and opting for *short news*, *news*, *special report*, *policy brief* over *interview*, *opinion*, *infographic*, *video* or *podcast*, when it comes to the type of the article. Online accessibility is an important indicator for the period that was selected for this particular research. The initial research universe consisted of 355 *articles* (news: n=329, short news: n=24, special report: n=2, policy brief: n=0) due to the fact that results were based on frame analysis of these particular samples. After a critical review (as shown in Annex 1) the universe there was a fine-tuning of the universe due to the fact that some articles did deal at all with the topic (ex. the results returned summary references to other articles and topics that had the terms such as "food" and "security" written). We did not choose to narrow the search using quotation marks ("food security") because, in this case, some articles dealing with food security in the secondary plan or background would not have been included. Thus, the universe narrowed to 199 *articles* (news: n=182, short news: n=15, special report: n=2, policy brief: n=0)

Media outlets use numerous frames and the main objective is to find out which is the dominant type. The primary goal of this research is to examine the news coverage of food security considerations, thus capturing broad coverage trends through framing theory, which were highlighted in articles of the Euractiv news organization, in order to extract the main subjects of communication and frames of newsworthiness, to assess the extent of coverage and the framing of news articles that are analysed with a focus on food security issues in order to form an overall trend and to determine how prevalent such news is. All pieces of news that mentioned food security were included in this framing analysis.

The research was divided into stages that included the search and critical review of the news articles from Euractiv, the extraction of the proper items for analysis, categorizing the journalistic material and interpretation using the framing taxonomy mentioned previously.

Early analysis

A frame's unique symbolism lies in its power to serve as a point of reference for the general public, guiding perceptions towards policies through elements of shared knowledge. The frame can be reinforced by the way it is underlined and by the characteristics of the journalistic text associated, in this case, with food security.

As shown in Table 1, in 2022, from the 1st of January to the 31st of July, a search of the Euractiv database using the terms "food security" returned a number of 560 articles (short news, news, special report, policy brief, interview, opinion, infographic, video or podcast) published by the media outlet, meaning an increase of 107% compared to the 12 months of the previous year (343 articles only in 2021). It is the most significant rise in the 10-year analysis period highlighted in this table and shows an overwhelming interest and newsworthy subject for European society. More news articles than in 2021 can be observed if we narrow the search from 24th of February to 31st of July, where we can find 355 articles (short news, news, special report, policy brief over interview). Judging by these numerical aspects, quoting Fortuna, Pollet, & Foote (2022), it can be said that food security "is back on the EU leaders' menu with a global flavour" and has become one of the most important issues in terms of policy priorities.

Although not with the same intensity, food security has been a fruitful topic in 2022 due to the temporal proximity of the adoption of the new Common Agricultural Policy by the European Parliament in late November 2021, where news articles and further debates were concentrated, mainly, on the conflict between the policy's environmental aspirations and the farming sector's opposition. Analysing the abovementioned articles, it can easily be said that food availability is not a major concern in the EU because Member States are sufficiently competitive and have the necessary agricultural resources to feed the population. Instead, the main focus is mostly on accessibility, mainly affordability, due to numerous inflationary crises and climate challenges, coupled with the war in Ukraine, that drive up food prices. Just 5% of the articles deal with food availability since the EU is also a global humanitarian food and nutrition assistance provider that ensures food aid to developing countries. The newsworthy criteria of proximity could be a good reason for such a low indicator in this regard. With the resurgence of the grain crisis and blockades at Ukrainian ports, particularly in June and July 2022, the focus associated with food security has shifted to Ukraine's importance in supplying grain to developing countries, where people spend a significant proportion of their income on food (Bukhta, 2022).

"Food security" news articles - EURACTIV (2013-2022)

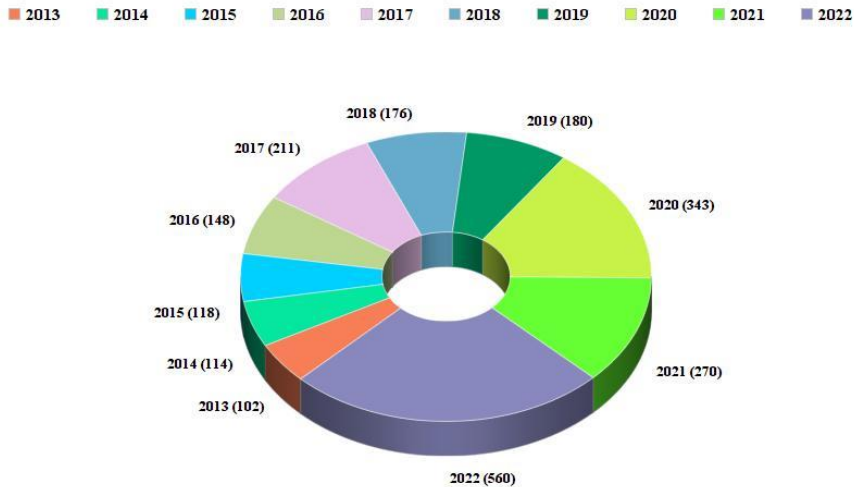


Table 1

Frames

The articles published in Euractiv between the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and July 31st were analyzed using Entman's (1991) taxonomy, which was also updated and explained by Semetko and Valkenburg (2000). The repetitiveness of a frame within the article in comparison to other frames included in the classification is used to calculate dominance in Table 2. As a result, the frequency of frames within the number of articles extracted from the research universe is used to determine this matter. A particular coverage surrounding food security included news stories that revealed patterns of established news-values criteria. The media articles examined primarily covered the economic consequence frame of food security's challenges (65%), but some also continued to emphasize the conflict (24%) between main actors and stakeholders that deal with food security at an EU level, as shown in Table 2. Human interest and responsibility frames have been present to a limited extent (3.5% and 7%), whereas no approaches have been noted that were in line with morality (0%).

"Food security" frames - Euractiv coverage

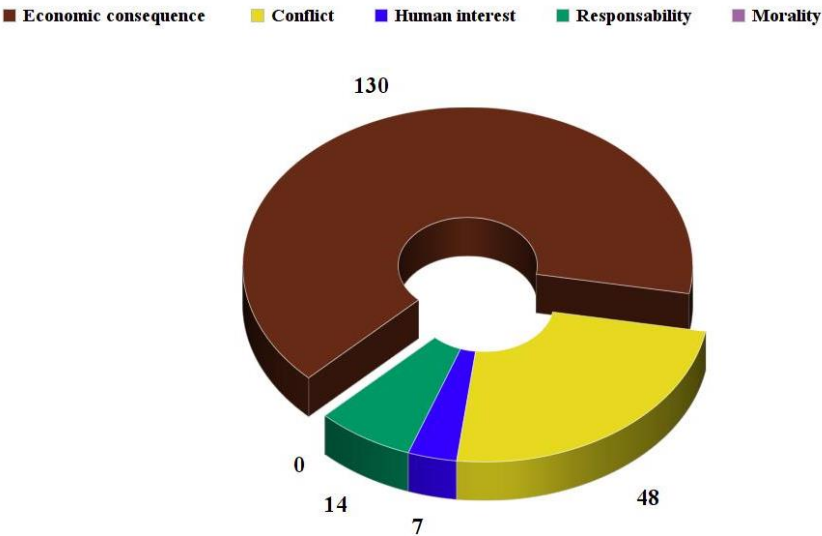


Table 2

The majority of approaches were likely to be framed as economic risks and consequences associated with food security in the media coverage presented at the time of our study. It was easy to anticipate since this frame is more prevalent in the news when conflicts, such as the one in Ukraine, possess broader economic implications. This has become more visible as the war has progressed. Furthermore, articles highlighted the need for immediate action, compared and contrasted different situations of Member States, identified major problems, especially in terms of logistics and transportation of grains from Ukraine. The strategic importance of Russia and Ukraine in ensuring the grain needs of developing countries in particular was underlined and it can also be classified under the economic consequence umbrella. Moreover, the components of the food chain that depend on imports of products from Russia and Ukraine (e.g. fertilizers, oil and gas) were highlighted and presented as the main driving force for future high prices of food. The content and frame analysis, coupled with the intensity of the articles as the scale of the war's impact on the global food system increased, points to the potential causality of a food crisis for developing countries and an increase in the price of food in the European Union. There are also cases where issues of economic consequences are intertwined with those of conflict, and the content of these articles refers to the viability of

strategies associated with the European Green Deal in the context of the war in Ukraine. In their article, Fortuna, Dahm, & Foote (2022), put forward the question of whether the current context would eventually develop into a “Trojan horse that took down the Green Deal.” In the same article, as in the current analysis, we can extract a concern of the EU related to food security, although, at the beginning of the war, it ensured the population that the food system in the European Union was solid and did not present risks and vulnerabilities. Equally, both the European Commission and some Member States (Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Romania or France) had numerous communications on food security, raising awareness of the issue, particularly in terms of its economic effects. Because their sources are consistently public statements of officials, journalists usually represent the views of those in power. This is not the case here, where official statements are often followed by generous contexts and industry challenges. Food security challenges are highly heterogeneous inside the EU and are dependent on a Member State specificities. The Euractiv news articles examined here also highlighted the importance of considering the affordability component of food security from an European perspective, without sacrificing the EU's role in ensuring global food security..

Although occupying a smaller proportion, the conflict frame could also be defined in terms of direct competition with that of economic consequences. In this particular case, framing refers to how actors define the situation, what they want to emphasize in order to adapt to the continuous stream of events and what actions need to be taken. Frictions, disputes, and incongruities caused by opposing arguments and views complete this frame. Also, it is complicated to see how the conflict frame of food security can avoid engaging with larger contextual CAP policy questions. In the face of the Ukraine war and the sanctions imposed by the West on Russia, the frame moved on a contrast between food production and sustainability. The apparent disparity between economic and environmental concerns inside the EU in the context of war had an impact on how the public acknowledges the various claims raised and debated in the political discussion surrounding food security. Since the adoption of the new CAP, conflicting arguments have been constant in EU affairs news, mainly between the European Commission, environmental and farming unions and agri-business experts. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the conflict has sharpened the opposition focused on environmental aspirations of the Green Deal. Calls from the industry have sparked reactions from the European Commission and Member States on the issue. The conflicts of ideas and visions that arise most frequently here are between the European Commission and the

Member States that want a relaxation of the imperatives of the European Green Deal, but there are also different views between Member States. In the face of outside pressure, the European Commission has taken on the role of the gatekeeper and divergent views (such as those of France and Germany) have been highlighted on this occasion. This frame was also a subject of in-depth journalistic research, where public statements from Member State representatives were detailed at the request of Euractiv journalists (Foote, 2022).

Responsibility and human interest are rare frames identified during this analysis. When it comes to responsibility, the frame focuses in particular on the role of the European Commission in meeting its sustainability targets in the context of war, plus Russia's responsibility for disrupting the food chain and the need for intervention by supra-state bodies (e.g. the UN) to set general directions for breaking the deadlock. Human interest, on the other hand, brought an emotional angle through stories of farmers that were integrated in the broader notion of food security. One of the most iconic stories from the grassroots speaks volumes about how a farm in France is affected by rising input prices (Fortuna, Struna, Dahm, & Foote, 2022). Personalising food security directly through its unit of measurement - the farm and the farmer - was a journalistic instrument used to focus the whole debate on the current challenges facing European agriculture and future generations of farmers, as in the case of the story entitled *Agrifood Brief: A sad tale from the farm*.

Food security is hard to ideologize and mystify because its associated vulnerability has effects that can be felt at the bottom of *Maslow's pyramid*. To some extent, however, the articles dealing with the EU's mission to engage in global food security underline, in the background, that moral foundation of concern for otherness, the ability to feel the needs of developing countries and the sensitivity to the suffering of others. Although the issue of food security may have appeared to be less urgent as well as certain, in the overall context of Russia's invasion in Ukraine, its ramifications quickly extended and reached the public agenda. Investigating beyond the bare facts of stories highlights media practices oriented towards discovering the root causes of problems associated with food security.

Conclusions

With a robust and newly reformed Common Agricultural Policy, the EU does not find itself in a situation of major food availability concerns, but rather in a logic of addressing food affordability issues for its citizens who

are severely affected by global crises. This study examined Euractiv's coverage of food security in the build up started by Russia's invasion in Ukraine from February 24, 2022 until July 31, 2022. Current events translated thorough news frames are fundamental for the understanding of individuals. The challenges of the Pan-European press were inextricably linked to the prospect of providing proximity to readers interested in the topics presented through various news categories. The sources used in these stories influenced the debate and awareness of food security. The dominant frames were chosen based on a consistent occurrence and correlation between the structures of news articles and followed framing theories and mass communication specific taxonomies.

The findings of this study support the assertion that Euractiv's attention of food security raised in 2022, compared to previous 10 years, and underlined important economical aspects that helped explain the consequences of the war in Ukraine. The journalistic approaches took into account the variable economic structure of the European Union, and the angle of approach highlighted a clear separation of the positions of Member States and the European Commission in relation to the impact of the conflict on food security. There was also an interweaving of efforts to illustrate this framework of consequences with the broader perspective of discussions on the sustainability of European agricultural practices. Conflict between institutions, representatives and in a small extent, between Member States, was identified as a second choice frame. Even so, there was no sign of favouring one side over the other, with Euractiv articles roughly evenly split between perspectives and statements supporting or criticising Green Deal-related strategies in the context of the war. Although responsibility is a recurring theme in articles referring to food security, with Russia being the main blamed, this was identified more as a secondary frame, alongside with the need for the EU to rethink public policies and the intervention of supranational bodies such as the UN that deal with food security under a global umbrella. The few articles in which the human interest frame was reflected cemented the more generic notion of bottom-up economic consequences of the war, unlocking one of the key links to food security - the farm and farmers.

The Pan-European news organization connected the frames to a sober and official tonality in order to highlight challenges of the food chain in the context of war. The secondary layer of the problem - the issue of sustainability - has also seen a revival, offering a new perspectives on the conflict of ideas that was spilling over into EU's agricultural policy. By giving prominence to officials at the level of European institutions and

Member States and to other stakeholders to a certain extent, the Euractiv journalistic approach best fitted the frame concerning the economic consequences related to food security issues by translating the implications of inaction in this area.

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Annex 1 – Articles from Euractiv analyzed between 24th of February – 31st of July 2022

Title - Conflict (Conf n), **Human interest** (Hi n), **Economic consequence** (Econ n), **Morality** (Moral n), **Responsibility** (Resp n).

“-not” means *not compatible with the research frame*

February 2022

News

- 1.Special Capitals Agrifood Brief: A closer look at CAP plans (Resp 1)
- 2.Climate change puts increasing pressure on food production, finds IPCC (Conf 1)

March 2022

Short news

- 1.Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania can start work immediately (Resp 2)
- 2.Ireland takes steps to boost self-sufficiency over wartime food security concerns (Econ 1)
- 3.Bulgarian government starts stocking up on grain (Econ 2)
- 4.Irish farmers underwhelmed by new war-linked food security committee (Resp 3)
- 5.Albanian inflation hits ten-year-high amid Russia-Ukraine war (Econ 3)
- 6.Spy Chief: No direct threat to Croatia and its citizens (Econ 4)
- 7.Finnish minister: EU consumers to pay ‘Putin’s prices’ (Econ 5)
- 8.Lisbon centre for Ukrainians has welcomed almost 400 refugees - not
- 9.Portuguese president says EU must accelerate capacities in crucial sectors (Resp 4)
- 10.Bird Flu cases surge in Albania as farmers criticise ministry inaction - not

Special report:

- 1 - Food sovereignty and the war in Ukraine (Econ 6)

News

1. Ukraine war puts EU food security into spotlight, agri sector told to brace for impact (Econ 7)
2. LEAK: 70% of EU’s drained peatlands must be restored by 2050, says Commission (Econ 8)
3. War Economy: Back to Basics (Econ 9)
4. EU to look again at Green deal goals in farming to ensure food security (Econ 10)
5. Commission mulls new communication on impact of energy crisis on the agri sector (Econ 11)
6. Agrifood Brief: Old McDonald’s had a farm (Conf 1)

7. Russian law on 'fake news' prompts media to halt reporting as websites blocked - not
8. Lacking other options, UN Security Council takes watchdog role in Ukraine war (Econ 12)
9. Greece, Bulgaria bullied by Russian embassies (Conf 2)
10. Ukraine halts export of key foodstuffs as concerns mount over EU food security (Econ 13)
11. What would a US ban on Russian oil mean for the world? (Econ 14)
12. Ukraine war on the brink of sparking world energy conflict (Econ 15)
13. Timmermans cautions against relaxing Green deal goals for sake of food security (Conf 3)
14. McDonald's, Starbucks, Coke and Pepsi all halt sales in Russia (Econ 16)
15. The Green Brief: A turning point for fossil fuels (Econ 17)
16. Germany stands against questioning food green goals amid Ukraine war (Conf 4)
17. Health Brief: Leave no one behind - not
18. EU announces funding sources to support fleeing Ukrainians (Econ 18)
19. German business warns of recession over energy sanctions (Econ 19)
20. France leads calls to reform 'absurd' EU energy market (Econ 20)
21. Commission reaffirms commitment to EU's green goals in first food security meeting (Conf 5)
22. US steps up pressure on Russia over Ukraine invasion (Econ 21)
23. EU supermarkets start rationing foodstuffs amid fears of panic buying (Econ 22)
24. Agrifood Brief: Guardians of the Green galaxy (Conf 6)
25. EU healthcare systems adjusting to arrival of 2.5m Ukrainian refugees - not
26. G7 agri ministers commit to keeping food markets open, supporting Ukraine - not
27. Russia squeezes Kyiv as 'unimaginable' tragedy looms in Ukraine (Econ 23)
28. Global Europe Brief: What to make of Europe's war rhetoric (Resp 5)
29. 'Invisible' soy linked to deforestation hides in animal products, report shows (Conf 7)
30. More Ukraine-Russia talks scheduled after deadly attack on base near Polish border - not
31. Germany's Nord Stream 2 region refuses to grant Ukraine aid - not
32. Italy, Slovakia call to rethink CAP in light of Ukraine war (Conf 8)
33. CoFoE: Participants ask for increased EU intervention in Ukrainian war (Econ 24)
34. EU to subsidise household fuel prices surging amid Ukraine crisis (Econ 25)
35. Biden to attend Brussels NATO and EU summits on 24 March (Econ 26)
36. The Green Brief: Europe's great gas U-turn - not

37. Health Brief: Welcome to the 'supermarket' - not
38. MEP proposes fewer restrictions on biofuels to meet higher renewables target (Conf 9)
39. Russian sanctions over Ukraine grow, Biden to talk to Xi (Econ 27)
40. EU executive split on 'suspending' Green deal goals in farming due to food security fears (Conf 10)
41. Macron wants to 'adapt' EU Farm to Fork to the post-Ukraine war world (Conf 11)
42. Agrifood Brief: Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes (Conf 12)
43. US warns China not to fuel Russia's assault on Ukraine as fears for Mariupol grow - not
44. Meaningful talks needed to stop Russia in Ukraine, Zelenskyy says - not
45. Moscow claims hypersonic missile use, Kyiv asks Beijing to condemn 'barbarism' - not
46. Global Europe Brief: Last stretch for EU's military strategy - not
47. Ukraine refuses to surrender Mariupol after Russian ultimatum - not
48. Arms production to change label in EU taxonomy? - not
49. EU holds pesticide reduction, biodiversity preservation proposals amid Ukraine war (Conf 13)
50. EU bets on green gases and electricity to break away from Russian fossil fuels (Conf 14)
51. Agriculture is a 'crucial security policy' for EU, says Commission (Resp 6)
52. Zelenskyy sees hope in 'confrontational' Russia talks - not
53. EU leaders urged to address energy prices 'industrial emergency' (Econ 28)
54. The Green Brief – Germany's last sacred cow (Econ 29)
55. EU ministers back Spain's call urging bloc to help fishing sector hit by fuel price hike (Econ 30)
56. CAP plan drafts fall short of environmental ambitions, says Commissioner (Conf 15)
57. Russia deliberately targets Ukraine's food supply to create hunger, says Commission (Resp 7)
58. Member states call for unified EU plant protein strategy (Econ 29)
59. US making plans in case Russia uses chemical, nuclear weapons - not
60. EU food supply will remain secure, but less accessible for Europe's poorest (Econ 30)
61. Ukraine's agri minister calls on EU for help just before resigning (Econ 31)
62. Agrifood Brief: The CAP's missing pillar (Econ 32)
63. Food security is back on EU leaders' menu with a global flavour (Conf 16)
64. Rockets hit western Ukraine as Biden says Putin 'cannot remain in power' (Econ 44) - not
65. Global Europe Brief: Indispensable allies (Econ 33)

66. Ukraine insists on territorial integrity as Turkey talks loom - not
67. German agri minister: Sustainable farming key for independence from Russia (Econ 34)
68. How the Ukraine war has impacted the French agrifood sector (Econ 35)
69. Agroecology: an obstacle and a necessity for achieving food sovereignty (Conf 17)
70. At Istanbul talks Russia promises to scale down operations in northern Ukraine - not
71. Ukraine isn't naive, Zelenskyy says after Russian pledge to scale down attack on Kyiv - not
72. Russian supply chains next in line for sanctions, US says (Econ 35)
73. Russia accused of causing 'global food crisis' at UN (Econ 36)
74. German fertiliser mining could come out on top amid Belarus embargo (Econ 37)
75. Ukraine preparing for new Russian offensive in the east, Zelenskyy says - not
76. Half-time for the French Presidency (Econ 38)
77. UK to cite Ukraine crisis for new delay on EU customs checks (Econ 39)

April

Short news

1. Zelenskyy appeals to Spanish parliament, evokes Guernica bombing - not
2. Lithuanian ministers call for Yandex apps to be removed from Europe - not
3. Kosovo to ban certain food exports amid food security crisis (Econ 40)
4. Finland's foreign committee chair warns of Russian manoeuvres (Resp 8)

News

1. Commissioner: EU's sustainable food strategy 'on pause', but not forgotten (Conf 18)
2. Agrifood Brief: The EU's Trojan horse moment (Conf 19)
3. EU lawmakers call on Commission to end meat promotion amid Ukraine crisis (Econ 41)
4. Five takeaways from the IPCC's report on limiting dangerous global heating - not
5. Travel freedom vs climate breakdown - not
6. Zelenskyy calls on world to stop Russia, more atrocities feared - not
7. EU democratic leaders turn their back on Orbán - not
8. EU foresees rise in grain exports to plug Ukrainian wheat global gap (Econ 42)
9. The Green Brief: One step closer to Russian fossil fuel ban - not
10. Agriculture Commissioner: It is 'prudent' to prioritise upping EU food production (Econ 43)
11. EU health authorities probe multi-country Salmonella outbreak linked to chocolate eggs - not

12. Health Brief: Harvesting the EU's health union - not
13. Post-Brexit labour shortages risk 'permanent' damage to UK farming (Econ 44)
14. Germany split over ramping up food production (Conf 20)
15. EU Commission urged to stop funding Balkan fossil fuel projects - not
16. Germany to use controversial biomass amid energy crisis (Econ 45)
17. Biofuels' impact on food security debate resurfaces amid Ukraine war (Conf 21)
18. V4 farmers demand postponement of new CAP due to Ukraine war (Conf 22)
19. Agrifood Brief: A little less conversation, a little more action please (Econ 46)
20. Global Europe Brief: France's Russian roulette - not
21. Ukraine says 1,200 bodies found near Kyiv as east braces for Donbas onslaught - not
22. Czech EU presidency to be run by Erasmus-paid trainees - not
23. EU farm lawmakers want to have their say on land-use emissions framework (Conf 23)
24. EU loses taste for caviar but maintains appetite for oil - not
25. Ferrero factory in Belgium suspends all activities following salmonella outbreak - not
26. Biden says Russia committing genocide in Ukraine - not
27. COVID vaccines account for bulk of aid increase - not
28. EU decision to restrict bee-harming pesticide causes tension with US (Conf 24)
29. International organisations warn soaring food prices could fuel social unrest, extreme poverty (Econ 47)
30. Europe prepares to live without Russian energy - not
31. Agrifood Brief: GI galore (Conf 25)
32. Danish PM: Become greener to weaken Putin - not
33. Germany calls for global food security alliance (Resp 9)
34. G20 members condemn Russia's war in Ukraine, after Western officials stage walkout - not
35. Princeton academics accuse EU biofuels policy of harming climate aims (Conf 26)
36. Small farmers: The unsung heroes of the Ukraine war (Hi 1)
37. Russia tests nuclear-capable missile that Putin calls world's best - not
38. Greek agri minister: Ukraine war to shake up Greek CAP plan (Econ 48)
39. Russia claims Mariupol 'liberated' but West hails Ukraine's resistance - not
40. UK and Canada protest Russia's 'perverse' participation in IMF meeting - not
41. Far-right Salvini and Orbán agree to create a new EU 'centre-right' - not
42. Agrifood Brief: Power to the peasants (Hi 2)
43. Global Europe Brief: What to make of 'Dragon-bear' - not

44. EU Commission wants to scrap import tariffs for Ukraine (Econ 49)
45. Croatia racing to mitigate impact of Ukraine war on agrifood sector (Econ 50)
46. Czechia slams Cyprus for hiding information on Russian oligarchs - not
47. UK confirms plan not to introduce checks on EU goods until 2024 (Econ 51)
48. Timmermans: Scaremongering on food security 'dishonest, irresponsible' (Conf 27)
49. Romania moves to fill agricultural hole left by Ukraine war (Econ 52)
50. Russia strikes Kyiv with missiles while UN chief visits, Biden seeks \$33bn for Ukraine - not
51. Bulgaria becomes regional hub for gas supplies - not
52. Bulgarian farmers in line for unprecedented state funding to ensure food security (Econ 53)
53. First Ukrainian corn cargo leaves Romanian Black Sea port (Econ 54)
54. Poland focuses on crisis relief for farmers in wake of Ukraine war (Econ 55)
55. Special Capitals: What Europeans do to support Ukraine (Resp 10)

May

Short news

1. Swedish court sentences Belgian, UK nationals for breaking into military base - not
2. Sweden 'can count on the EU', Michel says in Stockholm amid tensions with Turkey - not
3. Navy ships escorting civilian tankers? - (Resp 11)
4. Macron asks Turkey to respect Finland and Sweden's 'sovereign choice' - not

News

1. Civilians evacuated from Mariupol, Pelosi meets Ukraine's Zelenskyy - not
2. Hydrogen will be 'pivotal element' in future economy, says EU climate chief - not
3. German government mulls limiting biofuel production - (Econ 56)
4. Russia fires missiles at Odesa, Ukraine sinks two Russian patrol boats - not
5. German agri minister wants to help export-blocked Ukrainian grain (Econ 57)
6. Draghi calls for EU treaties change amid 'ideal' and 'pragmatic' federalism - not
7. The Green Brief: Does the EPP still support von der Leyen's Green Deal? (Conf 28)
8. France and India call for immediate end to Ukraine hostilities - not
9. Nordic countries want fast ratification of Swedish, Finnish NATO membership - not
10. Russia's sixth sanction package opens EU's Pandora's Box - not
11. Battles rage at Mariupol steel plant as UN tries to evacuate civilians - not
12. Agrifood Brief: Who's afraid of Farm to Fork? (Conf 29)

13. On surprise Odesa trip, Charles Michel takes cover during missile strike (Econ 58)
14. Albanian inflation strikes citizens, agribusinesses (Econ 59)
15. Agri-clash in Czechia over organic farming amid Ukraine war (Conf 30)
16. Play nice if you want our agri-trade: EU hangs food security threat over Turkey (Conf 31)
17. Leading MEP pushes for tight employment protection in platform workers directive - not
18. New cybersecurity law could encounter insufficient capacities, Czech stakeholders warn - not
19. EU urges 'not to give up on Syria' amid Russia's war on Ukraine - not
20. The Green Brief: Breaking up (with Russian oil) is hard to do - not
21. Health brief: The barriers to disability inclusion in the workforce - not
22. Germany lobbies EU to suspend crop rotation rules (Conf 32)
23. Commission slams Slovakia's proposed restriction of grain, cereal exports (Conf 33)
24. Agrifood Brief: A sad tale from the farm (Hi 3)
25. Ukraine minister seeks G7 help to export 40 million tonnes of grain (Econ 60)
26. Global Europe Brief: Will Turkey be a stumbling block for NATO enlargement? - not
27. EU study: CAP support for 'couch' farmers negatively impacts farm communities (Conf 34)
28. Albania pledges to meet Green Deal organic farming targets by 2030 (Resp 12)
29. US backs UN push to get Ukraine grain back to global market (Econ 61)
30. EU capitals mull seizing Russia-linked energy assets - not
31. Yemen's wheat industry urges international action to avert mass famine (Econ 62)
32. Austria's neutrality in the spotlight after Sweden-Finland NATO bid - not
33. The Green Brief: Quitting Russian fossil fuels is only half the challenge (Econ 63)
34. MEPs ask to pause CAP biodiversity requirements amid Ukraine war (Econ 64)
35. EU's 'solidarity lanes' will not 'significantly' help Ukraine export, says Ukrainian MP (Conf 35)
36. Farming sector cautious about using CAP funds to drop Russian energy imports (Econ 65)
37. Top US, Russian generals speak for first time since Ukraine invasion - not
38. G7 agree on \$18.4 billion to keep Ukraine running, ready with more (Econ 66)
39. Blinken accuses Russia of using food as a weapon in Ukraine (Econ 67)

40. Agrifood Brief: (Data) Space Oddity (Resp 13)
41. German development minister understands India's wheat export ban (Econ 68)
42. Ukraine rules out territorial concessions, as Russia steps up attacks - not
43. Scholz travels to Africa to forge closer ties with democracies amid Ukraine war (Econ 69)
44. Von der Leyen: Russia weaponises hunger, grain as way to wield global power (Econ 70)
45. Donbas fighting rages as Russia eyes prolonged war in Ukraine - not
46. The Green Brief: No done deal on EU carbon market reform - not
47. Russia's VK launches RuStore for apps after exit of Western alternatives - not
48. Commission considers easing rules on crop rotation to grow more wheat (Econ 71)
49. In Davos, Ukraine says it 'badly' needs rocket systems - not
50. German agri minister pleased with Commission's criticism of CAP strategic plan (Conf 35)
51. Germany unconvinced by Russian 'wheat for sanctions' offer (Conf 36)
52. EU farm ministers agree to bird flu vaccine strategy - not
53. Green deal is not dead, Czech agri minister states ahead of EU Presidency (Econ 72)
54. Russia prepares to seize western firms looking to leave - not
55. Putin and Draghi discuss ways to help solve food crisis (Conf 37)
56. Zelenskyy loses patience with EU divisions over new Russia sanctions - not
57. Agrifood Brief: From food sovereignty to food security (Econ 73)
58. Global Europe Brief: Unblocking the Black Sea might not fly (Econ 74)
59. EU summit unlikely to adopt Russia oil ban, will look at 'the broader picture' (Econ 75)
60. Spain to call for more energy ambition in EU at Brussels summit - not
61. Ukraine war hits Africa's most vulnerable as aid costs spike (Econ 76)
62. EU leaders to consider 'all available ways' to bypass Russian food export blockade (Econ 77)
63. Zelenskyy urges EU leaders to show resolve, calls situation in Donbas 'extremely difficult' - not
64. EU admits impact of 2/3 Russian gas cut 'not assessed' - not
65. African Union and EU agree united stance on food security amid famine warnings (Econ 78)

June

Short news

1. Slovenian parliament confirms new left-liberal government cabinet - not
2. EU official urges Serbia to join bloc stance on Russia - not

3. Famine looms over Africa, warns Czech agriculture minister (Econ 79)

News

1. UN had 'constructive' talks in Moscow on Russian grain, fertilizer exports (Resp 13)
2. Germany announces arms swap deal with Greece, as previous deals flounder - not
3. The Green Brief: Banning Russian oil was the easy part - not
4. Egypt calls for EU dam support as relations intensify - not
5. EU steps up efforts to debunk Putin's food security propaganda (Resp 14)
6. Berlin and Brussels find nitrate compromise after decade-long debate (Econ 80)
7. Ukraine's Zelenskyy eyes 'inflection point' in war as Russia tightens grip on key target - not
8. Albanian farmers receive lowest government subsidies in region (Econ 81)
9. Bulgarians, Hungarians, Slovaks still do not blame Putin for Ukraine war - not
10. Parliament, Council seal provisional deal on agricultural statistics reform (Conf 38)
11. Agrifood Brief: CAP's climate spending – All bark, no bite (Econ 82)
12. Tech Brief: AI Act amendments, Germany's data retention, standardisation politics - not
13. Third-party security guarantor could help unblock Ukraine's grain exports (Econ 83)
14. Global Europe Brief: How Ukraine is winning the meme war - not
15. Russia's UN envoy storms out of Ukraine meeting over Charles Michel statement - not
16. Czech Presidency: 'Let's forget about the Farm to Fork strategy for a few months' (Conf 39)
17. Hunger hotspots: UN warns current food insecurity worse than Arab Spring (Econ 84)
18. Energy sector is Europe's greatest weakness, says Portuguese PM - not
19. Russian, Turkish defence ministers discuss Syria, grain exports from Ukraine (Econ 85)
20. LEAK: The five political priorities of the upcoming Czech Presidency - not
21. Burned by Russia, Germany seeks to lessen dependence on China - not
22. The Green Brief: EU Parliament hit by 'tsunami of lobbying' (Conf 40)
23. Keep calm and carry on trading: Von der Leyen urges solidarity to fix food crisis (Econ 86)
24. Deal with it, Commission tells countries as inflation threatens EU projects - not
25. Spain wants NATO to flag migration as 'hybrid threat' in policy roadmap (Econ 87)

26. Scholz warns of ‘deglobalisation’ following Ukraine war - not
27. Athens shocked after Erdogan threatens in Greek - not
28. Intense fighting in Ukraine’s bombed-out Severodonetsk - not
29. Agrifood Brief: Agritourism in Alghero (Hi 4)
30. EU plans law to reverse decades of biodiversity loss (Econ 88)
31. Emmanuel Macron in Romania and Moldova next week - not
32. Trusting Putin on grain corridors would be ‘kamikaze’, says German minister (Econ 89)
33. In Kyiv, EU chief promises ‘a signal’ on Ukraine’s bid next week - not
34. Global Europe Brief: A ‘new dawn’ for EU enlargement? (Econ 90)
35. Russia strikes depot in west Ukraine, battle for Severodonetsk rages - not
36. WTO chief says ‘cautiously optimistic’ ahead of high-stakes meet (Econ 91)
37. Kremlin pledges support after Donbas separatist leader calls for more forces - not
38. Can biofuels help solve Europe’s Russian oil dilemma? - not
39. EU’s von der Leyen, Italian PM in Israel for energy talks - not
40. Biden touts temporary silos in Poland to help Ukraine grain exports (Econ 91)
41. The Green Brief: ‘F*** it, let’s try again’ on ETS reform - not
42. Global peace at 14-year low as Ukraine, living costs weigh in, report finds - not
43. Facing deadlock, WTO negotiations grind on despite Indian defiance - not
44. Biden announces new \$1 billion in weapons for Ukraine, Kyiv seeks more heavy arms - not
45. EU signs gas deal with Egypt, Israel to end ‘dependency’ on Russia - not
46. EU-India clash over push on free trade of food (Conf 41)
47. Silos on Ukraine border would keep grain out of Russian hands, says US (Econ 92)
48. WTO reaches initial deal as India’s defiance tempered (Econ 93)
49. Agrifood Special CAPitals Brief: Living life on the edge (Econ 94)
50. Global Europe Brief: What will EU leaders decide on future members? - not
51. Ukraine’s grain ‘OPEC’ – What is it and is it worth the price? (Econ 95)
52. Sales of high-blend ethanol surge in France amid rising fuel prices - not
53. EU ethanol companies produced more animal feed than fuel last year (Econ 96)
54. US says NATO commitment to Lithuania ‘ironclad’ after Russia threat - not
55. G20 chair Indonesia to push for peace in Ukraine - not
56. Commission unveils plan to halve pesticide use and risk (Econ 97)
57. At least 1,000 killed in Afghan quake, with fear toll will rise - not
58. EU tables ‘Nature Restoration Law’ to reverse biodiversity loss (Conf 42)
59. ‘This is a victory’: smiling Zelenskyy promises EU membership while battles rage - not

60. OECD: EU farming subsidies not focused enough on green goals, innovation (Econ 98)
61. Agrifood Brief: From Louis XVI to Macron – Where are the peasants? - (Hi 5)
62. G7 gear up to counter Putin's use of 'hunger as weapon' (Econ 99)
63. Provisional deal reached on how to handle future pandemics - not
64. Russia steps up missile strikes on Ukraine as G7 leaders gather - not
65. Long road ahead to hammer out UN biodiversity blueprint - (Conf 43)
66. MEPs vote to broaden the definition of 'sustainable aviation fuels' - not
67. G7 denounces 'war crime' as Russia missile strike kills 16 in shopping mall - not
68. Portrait of the countries against an ICE ban (Conf 44)
69. Dozens missing after strike on Ukraine mall, Russia presses attacks on east - not
70. Trump wanted to join Capitol riot, tried to grab limo steering wheel, aide says - not
71. G7 countries pledge extra billions to fight global food crisis (Econ 100)
72. Wheat prices to jump by a third if Russian exports halve, warn OECD, UN (Econ 101)
73. EU nears compromise deal to defuse standoff with Russia over Kaliningrad - not

Special report

1. Food security in times of crisis (Econ 102)

July

Short news

1. Pesticide reduction law ignores our starting point, says Slovak agriculture ministry (Conf 45)
2. Hungary to help get Ukraine's grain out (Econ 103)
3. EU should develop water management policy, says Portuguese agriculture minister (Econ 104)

News

1. Missile kills 10 in Odesa after Ukraine retakes Snake Island - not
2. Ukraine war, EU presidency boosts French defence plans - not
3. Indonesia leader targets food crisis during Russia-Ukraine peace mission (Econ 105)
4. Moldova eyes closer agri-trade relationship with EU (Econ 106)
5. Agrifood Brief: SURprise, surprise (Econ 107)
6. Global Europe Brief: Thank Putin, not the French, for more European defence - not
7. French-Italian nationalists' clash to blow up EU far-right unity - not

8. Zelenskyy says Ukraine is in talks with Turkey, UN on grain exports (Econ 108)
9. Food security top of Czech Presidency agrifood priorities (Econ 109)
10. Czech presidency to face the music on EU enlargement - not
11. Kyiv asks Turkey to probe three more Russian ships it alleges transported stolen grain (Econ 110)
12. The Green Brief: A French miracle on climate? - not
13. World hunger rising as UN agencies warn of 'looming catastrophe' (Econ 111)
14. Lavrov attends G20 ministerial set to be dominated by Ukraine conflict (Econ 112)
15. Czech PM promises to organise social summit following criticism (Econ 113)
16. Germany's neighbours eye gas situation, fearing supply cut - not
17. European Parliament backs higher green jet fuel targets to decarbonise aviation - not
18. G20 chair Indonesia appeals for ending Ukraine war as Lavrov looks on (Econ 114)
19. MEPs call for funding to support food security needs of Ukraine, vulnerable countries (Econ 115)
20. Agrifood Brief: Grain talks stuck – just like the trucks (Econ 116)
21. Sri Lanka protesters, angered by economic meltdown, storm president's house - not
22. Commission revises cereal production, export estimates amid extreme weather (Econ 117)
23. EU braces for migrants spurred by food crisis (Econ 118)
24. Rise of electric cars to shift biofuels use to other transport areas - not
25. The Green Brief: Europe's heatwave hell - not
26. Ukraine hopes for grain exports breakthrough as Istanbul talks resume (Econ 119)
27. Ancestral ties: India avidly watching British leadership race - not
28. EU lawmakers vote to blacklist soy biodiesel over sustainability concerns (Econ 120)
29. LEAK: EU drafts plan to reduce gas consumption ahead of uncertain winter - not
30. UAE announces \$2 billion investment in hi-tech Indian 'food parks' to ease shortages (Econ 121)
31. G20 finance chiefs meet as Indonesia warns of energy, food catastrophe (Econ 122)
32. Agrifood Brief: Do you hear the farmers sing? (Hi 6)
33. German stakeholders divided over EU's new peatland targets (Conf 46)
34. Global Europe Brief: Has the EU reached 'peak unity' on sanctions? - not

35. Zelenskyy sacks high officials, admits many cases of state treason - not
36. EU insists Russia sanctions work, but bloc needs 'postwar strategy' (Econ 123)
37. Severe drought could cancel out gains in EU food production (Econ 124)
38. Austrians asked to take heatwave seriously - not
39. EU looks to autocracies in search for energy - not
40. EU adds to black list Russia's biggest bank, Putin's motorcycle club - not
41. EU, China hold trade dialogue, no mention of frozen pact - not
42. From Iran, Putin blames Ukraine for not making good on peace deal - not
43. The Green Brief: Solidarity in times of energy crisis - not
44. Member states push to further loosen CAP environmental measures for 2023 (Econ 124)
45. Sahel leaders face battle to keep G5 force alive without Mali - not
46. In occupied south Ukraine, some fear a return to Soviet times under Russia (Hi 7)
47. Agrifood Brief: A troubled CAP-ple life (Conf 47)
48. Ukraine's ports to reopen under deal brokered by UN and Turkey (Econ 125)
49. Lavrov on African tour, seeks 'common understanding' of the grain crisis (Econ 126)
50. Lavrov courts Africa in quest for more non-Western friends (Econ 127)
51. Commission shirks responsibility on food crisis response, says German minister (Conf 48)
52. In competition with Russia, Macron pledges food, security boost during West Africa trip (Econ 128)
53. The Green Brief: Germany brought to heel - not
54. EU adopts further relaxation of environmental measures to increase cereal production (Econ 129)
55. Ukraine bombs Russian forces in the south, missiles hit near Kyiv - not
56. German ministers agree on final CAP plan, split on green rule suspension (Econ 130)
57. Blinken and Lavrov have 'frank' discussion about prisoners - not