

Mr Cristophe Hansen
Commissioner for Agriculture
and Food
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels Belgium

Brussels, 27 March 2026

RE: Joint call for clear objectives and priorities for the Livestock Strategy

Dear Commissioner Hansen,

We, the undersigned organisations representing the EU livestock value chain, wish to express our sincere appreciation to the European Commission for its renewed commitment to the livestock sector and for establishing the EU Livestock Workstream. We reaffirm our collective support for this process and for the development of the forthcoming EU Livestock Strategy to recognise the strategic importance of livestock production in Europe.

In view of the upcoming publication of the EU Livestock Strategy, we would like to reiterate what we believe should be the general objectives and priorities for this very important communication.

Food security is a key component of the EU's overall security and sovereignty. The future of farming and a competitive agrifood sector in Europe therefore needs to be ensured as stated in the political meeting of EU agriculture ministers of 7 January 2026.

In particular, the Livestock Strategy to be presented in Q2 2026 should focus on strengthening the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the EU livestock sector, helping to ensure its long-term future. The EU Livestock Strategy should not be seen as an endpoint, but as a starting point, a roadmap clearly identifying the key challenges that must be addressed during this mandate, and providing practical, feasible, and actionable solutions that make a real difference. To ensure that this roadmap strategy is effectively implemented and translated into concrete policy recommendations, we welcome that the EU Livestock Workstream will continue after the publication of the EU Livestock Strategy.

As confirmed by EU agriculture ministers, the global competitiveness of the EU agri-food sector is a strong asset for the EU's prosperity. With European farmers working diligently in the face of market crises, natural disasters, adverse climatic events, and animal disease outbreaks, maintaining the sector's competitiveness also requires a level playing field, as well as an EU regulatory environment which enables competitiveness, resilience and innovation. The EU should therefore continue to rigorously defend its interests in the area of farming and food security to turn the Livestock Strategy into reality.

We would also like to reiterate that we have identified several priorities to be reflected in the forthcoming EU Livestock Strategy, together with concrete suggestions for

discussion to make these priorities actionable. These suggestions are included in the annex to this letter.

An integrated approach is essential to achieve greater coherence and coordination across agricultural, environmental, health, and trade policies, ensuring that the EU's strategic livestock sectors can remain competitive and sustainable in the years ahead. In this context, we strongly hope that the forthcoming EU Livestock Strategy will recognize and reinforce the position of the livestock sectors as key strategic pillars of the Union.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the following associations:



Animal Health Europe, AVEC, CLITRAVI, COPA COGEGA, ERA, Euro Foie Gras, EFFAB, EFPPRA, FEFAC, FEFANA, FESASS, UECBV.

ANNEX (updated): Topics to be addressed through the forthcoming EU Livestock Strategy

- **Streamlining burdensome and too strict legislation related to agriculture, to unblock innovation and the full circularity potential, through a future Agri-Food Chain Omnibus.**
 - Simplifying permitting procedures for the modernisation of farms, which are currently hindered by excessive administrative and environmental burdens;
 - Harmonised guidance at the national or regional level to avoid misinterpretation of EU legislation and ease permit access procedure.
 - Exclude family and small and medium-sized farms from burdensome environmental legislation such as the IED.
 - Align environmental ambition with on-the-ground realities so that legislation is better grounded in practical conditions.
 - Increase the availability of farm advisory services, specifically for interpreting new or complex legislation, compiling files, and defending farm projects in front of local authorities;
 - Simplification of the data submission process to EFSA on residues and contaminants;
- **Improving animal health preparedness and access to veterinary tools, notably through**
 - A fair revision of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 on the prevention and control of certain listed diseases;
 - The establishment of a dedicated fund to support farmers in the prevention and management of animal disease outbreaks;
 - Streamlining of the authorisation processes for animal health products to ensure timely access;
- **Enhancing the regulatory and financial framework for innovative breeding and feed solutions, through**
 - The revision of EU rules on feed additives in an effort to remove any substantial constraint on innovation in the feed chain;
 - The introduction of incentives, including public support, to encourage the use of animal genetics, feed additives and other more circular feed material which help to reduce or mitigate emissions
 - Streamlining EFSA procedures to foster innovation, optimise resources, and accelerate risk assessments (e.g. feed additives);
 - Developing an EU Circular Feed Roadmap to map potential feed sources and improve resource efficiency;
- **Promoting renewable energy and nutrient recycling by**
 - Strengthened investment and policy support for biogas generation from livestock manure, as a key pillar of the EU's renewable energy and circular economy strategies;
 - Recognition of manure-based products such as ReNuRe and digestate as organic fertilisers, eligible for use beyond current Nitrates Directive limits;
 - Boosting the circular bioeconomy through livestock by-products
 - Including the revision of the classification of wool
 - Re-introduction and use of Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) from all species as feed to enhance its circular value, in line with the EU Bioeconomy Strategy;
- **Promotion of European livestock products in and outside the EU**
 - Creating guidelines for Member States on how to integrate EU farming and food production into educational programmes as a core element of the Union's identity and sustainability goals.
 - Integrating equivalent clauses in European standards to ensure an EU level playing field in trade agreements.
 - Improving access to non-EU markets and ensuring that regionalisation is fully recognised by our trade partners.