

“INTERGROUP ON LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS”

“ TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY OF THE EU PRODUCTION MODEL”

- DECLARATION OF SUPPORT -

INTRODUCTION

The EU model of production enables the highest standards of food safety, environmental stewardship, animal health and welfare in the single market also addressing societal demands. The livestock sector¹ contributes substantially to the European economy (€168 billion annually) to the trade balance and creates employment for almost 30 million people.

European citizens’ access to diverse and good quality food is a direct benefit of the focus of EU agriculture on delivering top produce to high standards. Our rich food heritage is made up of a diverse range of seasonal produce ensuring a healthy, balanced diet. According to official EU dietary recommendations, meat is a vital element of that healthy, balanced diet.

The livestock sector contributes greatly in providing this diversity to European consumers.

Today the average EU household spends just 15% of its budget on food compared to 30% in 1960, whilst the quality of that produce has improved.

Despite this impressive performance in delivering a key ‘public good’ of healthy food produced sustainably, the livestock sector is under mounting pressure from public and political campaigns to drastically reform or phase out some livestock practices altogether. Issues as diverse as human health, animal welfare, biodiversity, emissions, antibiotic use, novel breeding techniques and consumption levels of meat are being leveraged to harm the reputation of the EU livestock sector. Much of this pressure is driven by anti-livestock campaigns and proliferated by “fake news” or inaccurate information.

There is a knowledge gap between what the livestock sector in Europe is actually doing and what is understood by stakeholders and consumers in general. At the political level there is also a lack of understanding of the economic realities facing primary producers in a highly pressurised value chain.

The creation of the European Parliament Intergroup on “Livestock and Livestock products” aims to restore a fact-based discussion on the EU model of production,

¹ Livestock is commonly defined as animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor, food and other commodities such as meat, fish, eggs, milk, fur, leather, and wool.

providing a forum for a fair and balanced debate on the future of the EU livestock sector.

STRATEGY

The Intergroup will promote the latest scientific reporting available in order to fill existing knowledge gaps between what the livestock sector in Europe is actually doing and what is understood by Members of the European Parliament, stakeholders and EU citizens in general.

The objectives:

- To hold informal exchanges of views on the role of the European livestock sector in European society
- To promote contact between Members of the European Parliament and representatives of civil society
- To provide support to the existing and upcoming legislative programme by providing a balanced and fair forum for all stakeholders to engage in a constructive manner
- To provide credible and science-based information to Members of the European Parliament. Debunking some key myths and “fake news”.
- To improve the understanding of the issues facing the livestock community and the possible solutions for sustainable production of animal products: fish, meat (beef, pigmeat, poultry, rabbits, etc), milk, eggs, leather, wool and fur
- To improve the attitude towards the livestock sector and its positive role in the EU’s environment, economy and contribution to the health of its citizens.

Among other topics, it will focus on the sector’s nutrition benefits, providing affordable, quality foods as part of a balanced diet, environmental benefits, advantages for rural areas, growth and jobs, the EU’s good production practices and the efforts farmers and agri-cooperatives make to combat antimicrobial resistance, or reduce emissions, for example.

SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERGOUP ON LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS



Declaration of support

In my function as Member of the European Parliament, the undersigned

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hereby declare that

- I support the establishment of the Intergroup on Livestock and Livestock products
- I wish to join the Intergroup on Livestock and Livestock products as a member

Political Group:

Date and signature:

To be sent back to: gabor.klenovics@europarl.europa.eu, by 27th November

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