

Symposium of the Animal Task Force & EAAP Commissions on “Livestock Farming Systems” and “Sheep & Goat”: *European resilient livestock farming systems in a continuously changing world*



“EU Policy change related to the vision for agriculture and food, including simplification of EU rules and bureaucracy and comprehensive EU livestock strategy”

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Vision and objectives for 2040



An **attractive** and **predictable** agri-food sector where incomes enable farmers to thrive, attracting future generations

ATTRACTIVENESS



An agri-food sector that is **competitive** and **resilient** in the face of rising global competition and shocks

COMPETITIVENESS & RESILIENCE



A **future proof** agri-food sector that is functioning within planetary boundaries

SUSTAINABILITY



An agri-food sector that values **food**, fosters **fair working and living conditions** and vibrant and well-connected rural and coastal areas

FAIRNESS



Vision and simplification

...The delivery of these priority areas rests largely on important flanking elements, namely **simplification** of the regulatory framework that impacts farmers and the entire agri-food value chain, and innovation that offers solutions for a sustainable transition

Omnibus III: common agricultural policy

This package aims to reduce complexity and excessive administrative burden for farmers and national administrations in managing, monitoring and reporting, and leverage the potential of digitalisation.

Annual administrative cost savings are estimated at €1.58 billion for farmers and €210 million for administrations.

The Commission presented this package on 14 May 2025.

Omnibus X: food and feed safety

This cross-cutting package simplifies rules and procedures across the EU's applicable legislation, from plant protection products and biocidal products, to feed, official controls and animal health and welfare.

Administrative cost savings are estimated at €939 million per year.

The Commission presented this package on 16 December 2025.

https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-implementation-and-enforcement/simplification_en



Vision and livestock

3.2. A competitive and resilient sector in the face of global challenges

Towards a fairer global competition

(b) The Union framework for a competitive agri-food sector

In addition, the Commission will work on strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of sensitive sectors such as **livestock**, present a simplification package that will contribute to the competitiveness of European farmers while preserving the contribution to societal objectives, propose an extension of the country of origin labelling in line with sectoral specificities and Single Market rules and intensify its promotion policy.

Supporting the resilience of agricultural markets



The EU **livestock** sector is particularly vulnerable to different shocks and global competition. High EU standards require EU **livestock** farmers to be world leaders, but their efforts are not reciprocated globally where they compete on an uneven level playing field. Such standards also come at a cost that the market does not always reward. **Livestock is and will remain an essential part of EU agriculture, competitiveness and cohesion.** Sustainable **livestock** is crucial for the EU economy, viability of rural areas and preservation of the environment and of rural landscapes. It is a sector in which innovation can thrive and bring tangible benefits.

The EU **livestock** sector requires a **long-term vision** that respects the diversity and sustainability of **livestock** production across Europe. Protecting this diversity means that there cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach but rather targeted, territorial solutions for the sector's competitiveness and sustainability. A powerful drive could be given by designing conducive conditions for the development of an "excellence **livestock** production chain". The Commission will launch a **work stream on livestock** to develop policy pathways that: a) provide a diagnosis of the sector's challenges, including global competition; b) propose appropriate tools to accompany the sector and, where justified, reciprocity measures; c) seek ways to address its climate/environment footprint, including ways to valorise the link between **livestock** production and maintenance of environment- and climate-valuable grasslands through more extensive **livestock** systems beneficial to the preservation of biodiversity and landscapes; d) foster investments, technological development and innovation; and e) enhance the development of sustainable production models.

Livestock Strategy in the 2026 Commission Work Programme



The **Livestock strategy** will foster the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the EU livestock sector and agri-food chain, while the **Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture** will boost competitiveness and sustainability in these sectors, and the **Ocean Act** will guide European ocean governance.

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

28.	Agriculture	Livestock strategy including elements on animal welfare (non-legislative, Q2 2026)
		Update of rules on unfair trading practices in the food chain (legislative, Article 43 TFEU, Q3 2026)



Why a livestock strategy?

A strategic sector facing major challenges

- Livestock is key for the Union: **40% of agricultural added value, EUR 400 billion turnover, 4 million farms and 7 million jobs.**
- It is essential for **food security, rural livelihoods, territorial cohesion and strategic autonomy.**
- The sector faces strong pressure: **profitability, market volatility, climate stress, animal diseases, labour shortages and ageing farmers.**
- The strategy sets a **long-term direction** for a sector that must remain both **competitive and sustainable.**



EU livestock strategy

One strategy, five mutually reinforcing priorities

- The strategy is built around **five priorities: resilience, competitiveness, sustainability, territorial diversity and excellence.**
- It reflects a distinct **European approach** based on **high standards, diversity and strong rural anchorage.**
- It combines **EU action, Member State action and stakeholder engagement.**
- The objective is a livestock sector that can **thrive** and is better prepared for future challenges.



A Resilient Livestock Sector

Better prepared for crises, disease and climate stress

- Strengthen **risk management** with better access to insurance, mutual funds and a possible **dedicated post-2027 financial scheme**.
- Reinforce **animal disease prevention and response** through biosecurity, early warning and a wider science-based use of vaccination.
- Invest in **climate adaptation, innovation and digital tools** to help farms cope with heat, water stress and volatility.
- Reduce dependency on imported inputs by supporting **domestic proteins, circular resources and stronger cooperation**.



A Competitive Livestock Sector

Closing the investment gap and ensuring fair competition

- Help livestock farmers close the **investment gap**, including for the transition to higher sustainability and animal welfare.
- Provide a **more stable and predictable framework**, with simplification and faster permitting where needed.
- Strengthen livestock farmers' place in the food chain through **better remuneration, more transparency and action on unfair trading practices**.
- Defend fair competition through **stronger import controls, reciprocity of standards and agri-food diplomacy**.



A Sustainable Livestock Sector

Supporting the transition in a fair and practicable way

- Promote a **fair and balanced transition** for sustainability efforts to be economically workable for farmers.
- Advance **animal welfare**, with targeted revisions for **laying hens and broilers by end-2026** and **pigs by Q2 2027**.
- Reduce emissions through better **farm-level measurement**, innovation, improved feeding, breeding and manure management.
- Support circular solutions such as **biogas, biomethane, nutrient recycling and better use of manure and by-products**.
- Build, by 2027, a **Livestock Platform** with a **repository of proven solutions** for climate, environment and animal welfare, **helping share practical approaches** across Member States and sectors



Fitting European Territorial Diversity

Tailored solutions for Europe's diverse rural landscapes

- Livestock is especially important in **mountain, grassland, northern, island and other vulnerable rural areas**.
- The strategy will help address **regions at risk of abandonment** and support the return of sustainable livestock where appropriate.
- It promotes **locally anchored value chains** linking farmers, processors, services and local markets (e.g. a dedicated roadmap will look at **low-capacity and mobile slaughterhouses** to support rural viability and animal welfare).



Excellence in Livestock Production

Making the European model visible and better rewarded

- Build a clear EU pathway for **excellence** based on **quality, sustainability, responsibility and high welfare standards**.
- Improve consumer information through stronger **EU origin communication** and clearer marketing tools.
- Develop a voluntary **European excellence approach** using optional reserved terms to valorise higher standards.
- Better promote **territorially embedded, high-quality livestock systems** through EU promotion policy, GIs and organics



Simplification in Livestock Strategy

The Commission will **prepare a manual with practical orientations on risk management and assess and reduce, where relevant, administrative barriers** to setting up specific risk-management tools such as mutual funds, particularly to address low uptake by small farms.

The Commission will pursue further **regulatory simplification in food and feed rules**, including through the food and feed safety omnibus, by making EU hygiene legislation more agile, improving the use of flexibility provisions for low-capacity slaughterhouses, and amending the feed additives framework to facilitate innovative feed additives.

Following the evaluation of the Nitrates Directive, the Commission will work with Member States to identify **best practice and simplification potential** in nutrient management, calendar farming, record keeping and fertilisation for small farms, and will advise Member States on possibilities to simplify implementation for certain sustainable livestock practices.

The Commission will work on **facilitating the use of animal by-products** without jeopardising animal health, food and feed safety standards, and will **review potential regulatory bottlenecks** so as to better support circular economy approaches in livestock farming.



Thank you

