



PRESS RELEASE

European Livestock Strategy: a positive signal for the future of the sector that must now be translated into concrete action

Brussels, 8 July 2026 – [SELMA](#) (Sustainable European Livestock and Meat Association) welcomes the publication of the European Commission's European Livestock Strategy.

The strategy marks a significant evolution in the Commission's approach to the livestock sector. It clearly recognises the economic, social, territorial and environmental role of livestock farming within the European Union, as well as its contribution to food security, the vitality of rural areas, the bioeconomy and the production of high-quality proteins.

"This strategy sends an important signal to European livestock farmers. It provides better recognition of the contribution livestock farming makes to food security, the vitality of rural areas, and the European economy," said **Guillaume Gauthier**, President of SELMA.

SELMA particularly welcomes several positive elements set out in the strategy.

First, SELMA welcomes the fact that livestock farming is no longer approached solely through the lens of its environmental challenges, but is also recognised as a strategic sector whose resilience, competitiveness and sustainability should be strengthened in order to contribute to the European Union's food security.

The strategy also highlights the importance of the diversity of European livestock systems and their contribution to the vitality of rural areas, landscape management and the circular economy.

SELMA also welcomes the announcement of an evaluation of the Animal Health Law, within the framework of the One Health approach, as well as the Commission's intention to promote a broader use of science-based preventive vaccination. At a time when Europe is facing an increasing number of animal disease outbreaks and sanitary risks, this represents an important step towards strengthening the resilience of European livestock systems.

SELMA also welcomes the Commission's recognition that European livestock farmers operate under high standards in the areas of animal welfare, food safety and environmental protection. The stated objective of strengthening the alignment of standards applicable to imported products, particularly with regard to animal welfare, together with the strict enforcement of EU food safety rules, sends a positive signal towards ensuring fairer conditions of competition.

However, SELMA regrets that, despite recognising the role of livestock farming in providing high-quality proteins and essential nutrients, the strategy still falls short of explicitly recognising the contribution of meat and animal proteins to a healthy and balanced diet.

SELMA will pay close attention to the assessment announced by the European Commission regarding the export of live animals to third countries. The Association recalls that these trade flows represent a major economic stake for certain European livestock sectors and that it is essential to preserve these strategic market outlets for European producers.



Finally, SELMA underlines that, while the strategy sets out encouraging directions for the future of the sector, its success will ultimately depend on how these ambitions are translated into concrete legislative, budgetary and trade measures at EU level.

“European livestock farmers need predictability, coherence and concrete measures. This strategy provides a positive basis for future work, but it must now be translated into tangible actions, particularly to ensure fair competition with imported products, in order to sustainably strengthen the competitiveness and long-term viability of European livestock farming,” concluded **Guillaume Gauthier**.

About SELMA

The **Sustainable European Livestock & Meat Association** ([SELMA](#)) is an umbrella organisation representing the European livestock and meat industry. Its members advocate for fair trade, sustainability, and the highest standards of animal welfare and food safety across the EU. SELMA brings together national organisations from six European countries including FEBEV (**Belgium**), EDOK (**Greece**), OI Intercarneitalia (**Italy**), Provacuno and Interovic (**Spain**), PZBM (**Poland**) and Interbev (**France**).

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