



To: Members of the European Parliament

Brussels, 12th November 2019

Subject: Declaration of support for the creation of an European Parliament intergroup on “Livestock and Livestock products”

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

On behalf of the 11 member associations of the European Livestock Voice and the 2 supporting organisations (EDA, EUWEP).

We support the initiative of MEP Balázs Hidvéghi (EPP) to create an European Parliament Intergroup on “Livestock and Livestock products”¹. We call on your support for the creation of such an important Intergroup and encourage you to sign the Declaration of Support to be addressed to MEP Hidvéghi.

The 2019 European elections have put topics such as animal welfare and livestock farming at the top of the public agenda. Farmers, as well as all the professionals of the sector, are facing a growing amount of misinformation without always having the possibility and/or the capacity to reply. This situation has to change!

The EU livestock farming model, based on diversified, local and family farm structures, is the backbone of Europe’s rural areas. It supports a great number of jobs and industries, and it contributes to the development of a circular and bio-based economy, while also ensuring a steady and affordable supply of nutritious foods, nourishing Europe’s families and upholding our culinary traditions.

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.

There is currently a knowledge gap between what the livestock sector in Europe is actually doing and what is understood by stakeholders and consumers in general. At political level, there is also a lack of understanding of the economic realities faced by primary producers in a highly pressurised value chain. The creation of the Intergroup on “Livestock and Livestock products” aims to provide a forum for fair and balanced debates on the future of the EU livestock sector, based on facts.

We are convinced that livestock, under all its forms, has brought, and will continue to bring, many benefits to Europe while constantly improving its practices.

We hope that you will support the creation of this Intergroup and that you will actively participate and contribute to it, once created.

You will find here attached the [Declaration of Support](#) for the creation of the Intergroup “Livestock and Livestock products” and the link to our first joint campaign [#Meatthefacts](#).

Sincerely yours,



Roxane Feller
Secretary General
AnimalhealthEurope



Birthe Steenberg
Secretary General
AVEC



Dirk Dobbelaere
Secretary General
CLITRAVI



Pekka Pesonen
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