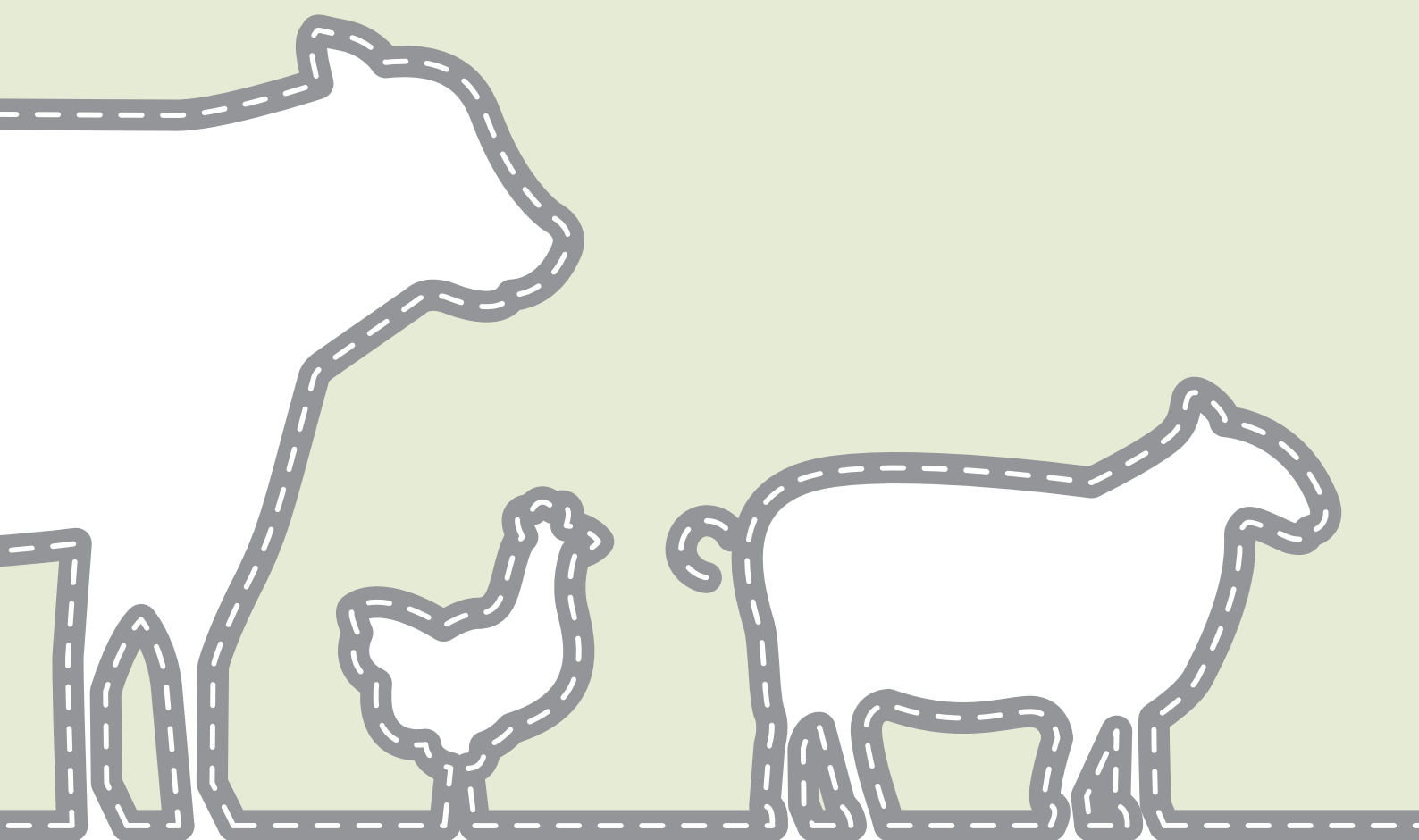


# Roadmap for Sustainable EU Livestock



In 2016, EU40 - the network of young Members of the European Parliament - organised a trilogy of debates entitled "Sustainable EU Livestock: Actions towards an Innovative, Climate-Smart and Competitive Future". In 2017, EU 40 brought the participants of the debates together again, with a goal to build this Roadmap for Sustainable EU Livestock. The series of debates as well as work on creation of this Roadmap was supported by EU 40's corporate partner Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly and Company.

The content of the document reflects consensus from the members of the group of stakeholders who had full editorial control. The document is not an official position of EU 40.

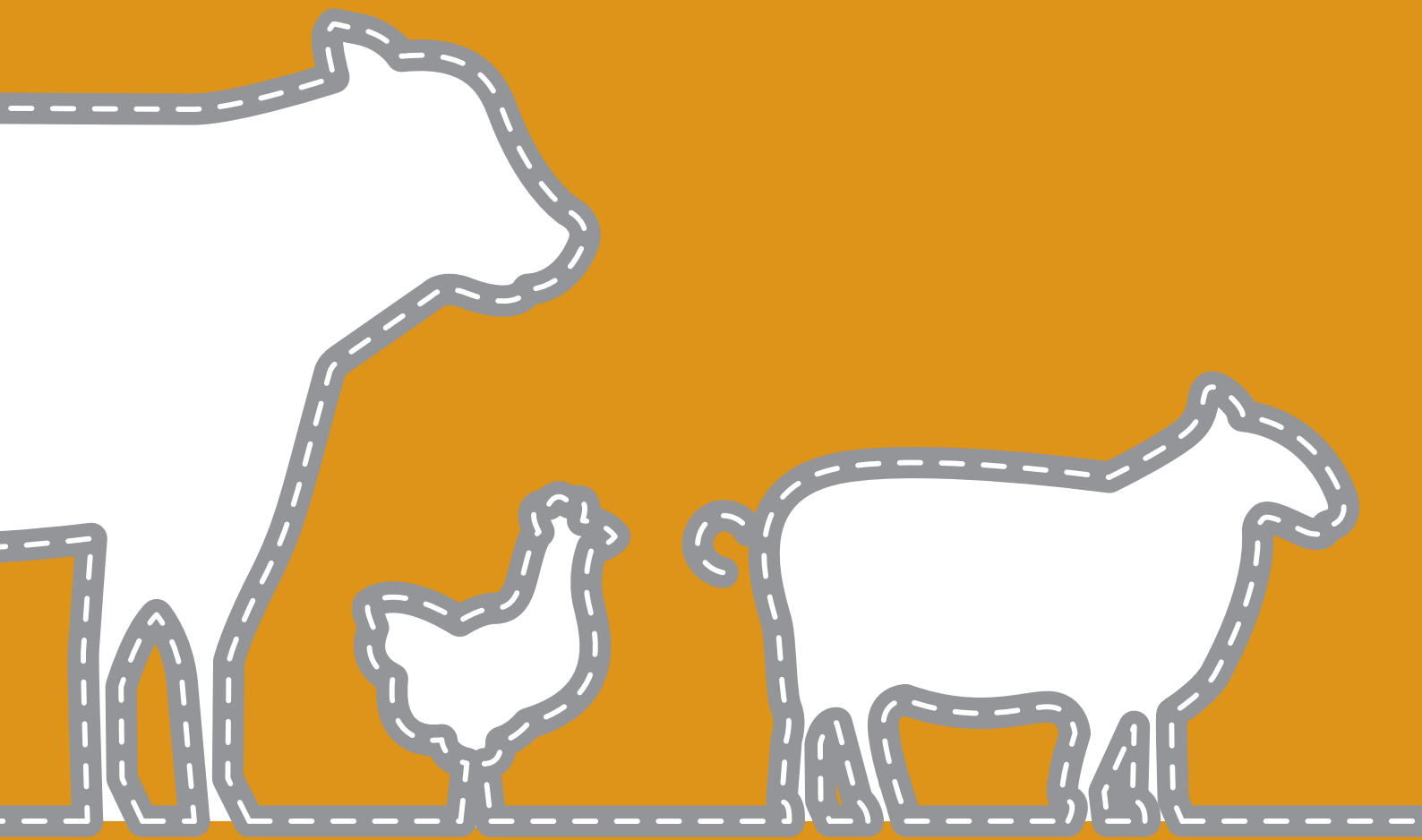
Members of the informal stakeholder group on Sustainable Livestock Production in Europe:



- The Animal Task Force
- European Council of Young Farmers
- European Federation of Animal Science

- Elanco
- The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation
- International Federation for Animal Health Europe

- The Polish Poultry Council Chamber of Commerce
- Newcastle University



## Introduction

Making food production more sustainable is one of the greatest challenges of our times. In the face of global population growth, increased demand for animal protein, and climate action commitments, we need to ask ourselves how the EU livestock sector can become more sustainable? How can more be produced with less? In the light of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, the need to find ways for a sustainable livestock approach in today's EU agricultural sector has proven to be more timely and relevant than ever.

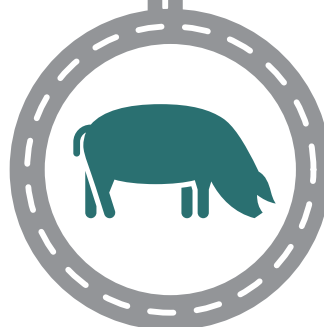
In order to tackle this urgent question EU40 organised a trilogy of debates in 2016 entitled “Sustainable EU Livestock: Actions towards an Innovative, Climate-Smart and Competitive Future”. The debates (**Environmental Sustainability of Livestock Production, Economic and Social Pillars of Sustainable Livestock Production, and Sustainable EU Livestock: The Way Forward**) were hosted by MEPs Daniel Dalton (ECR), Franc Bogovic (EPP), Michela Giuffrida (S&D), Jasenko Selimovic, and Hannu Takkula (ALDE). Through an exchange of perspectives and solutions, participants identified policy areas where the livestock sector needed support as it needs to move towards becoming more environmentally sound, socially responsible and economically viable.

To continue the momentum of the debates, in 2017 participants and other stakeholders came together and collaborated to develop a Roadmap for Sustainable EU Livestock. This document aims at highlighting livestock-specific actions that can contribute to a sustainable EU agricultural sector through innovation, technology, and science-based solutions and is part of EU40's philosophy of follow to the large debating lines we host.



Adam Mouchtar  
Co-founder & Managing Director of EU40

eu40<sup>®</sup>



## MEPs quotes:



We committed ourselves to reaching climate goals, but we still need to keep our livestock sector competitive and even more importantly technologically and digitally advanced, so that jobs can be preserved here in Europe

**MEP Franc Bogovič (EPP)**



It is important that we have effective initiatives such as this roadmap for sustainable livestock farming policies, which will help support farmers, whilst also addressing environmental concerns. Ensuring that we invest properly in future technologies will be key.

**MEP Daniel Dalton (ECR)**



More quality and more respect for the health and welfare of farm animals should not mean more bureaucracy (...) This roadmap emphasizes the need for disease prevention, responsible medicine use and affordable solutions for a sustainable livestock sector.

**MEP Michela Giuffrida (S&D)**



In the greenhouse gas (GHG) calculations, we must consider the carbon sequestration achieved by livestock farmers, by including their cereal crops and grasslands. If we do so, the GHG for animal production is reduced.

**MEP Hannu Takkula (ALDE)**



Over the next decades, our planet will face a historical challenge, but also a unique opportunity: our planet will need to be food secure. This roadmap addresses this challenge making a call for a more effective and knowledge-based agricultural sector.

**Jasenko Selimovic (ALDE)**

# What is Sustainable Livestock?

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs<sup>1</sup>. In the context of agricultural production, sustainable agriculture has been defined as “the efficient production of safe, high quality agricultural products, in a way that protects and improves the natural environment, the social and economic conditions of farmers, their employees and local communities, and safeguards the health and welfare of all farmed species”<sup>2</sup>. Given this concept, the definition of sustainable livestock requires a holistic and cross-sector policy approach that jointly addresses the three pillars

**environmentally sound,**  
**socially responsible,**  
and  
**economically viable.**



# The Need for Sustainability in EU Livestock Farming

The European Union has been at the forefront of global efforts to promote sustainable agriculture. Nonetheless, given its particular nature and the challenges it faces, the livestock sector needs specific attention and concrete actions. When addressing sustainable livestock, policy makers should consider:

- **Demographic growth:** With a world population expected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, food production will have to be raised by 70%<sup>3</sup>. Demographic growth, higher average incomes and changing dietary preferences are expected to drive an increase of 70% in global demand for livestock products<sup>4</sup> over the next three decades.
- **Climate action:** Given that the global livestock sector represents 14.5% of global human-induced GHG emissions<sup>5</sup>, building a climate-smart EU livestock sector is crucial.
- **Economic relevance:** The livestock sector accounts for 42% of total EU agricultural activity, creating employment for almost 30 million people. Global growing demand for animal protein will particularly impact European farmers and consumer affordability. Therefore it is crucial for farmers to be cost-competitive. The global demand can also offer an opportunity to incentivize product differentiation in international markets based on increased quality and sustainability.
- **Cross-cutting nature:** The livestock sector plays a major economic role, drives rural development, and is a powerful means to tackle climate change. Investing in the sustainability of the sector can lead to economic growth, food security and nutrition, climate action<sup>6</sup>, improved farming animal welfare, scientific innovation, and overall increased competitiveness. Given its cross-cutting nature, adopting a holistic approach for livestock-specific measures is crucial.
- **Consumer awareness:** Consumer demand for sustainable products keeps growing, with a special focus on sustained animal welfare. Political measures that support a more sustainable livestock sector go hand in hand with transparent and efficient communication to increase the trust of consumers and the civil society in general. By acknowledging the efforts and achieved progress of the livestock sector, as well as addressing public misinformation on current practices, the EU can support the continuous improvement of livestock farms and the contribution that livestock has in rural development.



## Sustainable Livestock: How to get there?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for joint action to achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, and fight climate change. Over the next 15 years, stakeholders will work together and the livestock sector has a great role to play. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has recognized the value that livestock can bring in delivering all 17 goals<sup>7</sup> due to its potential contribution to food security and nutrition, economic growth, poverty alleviation, rural development, and climate action.

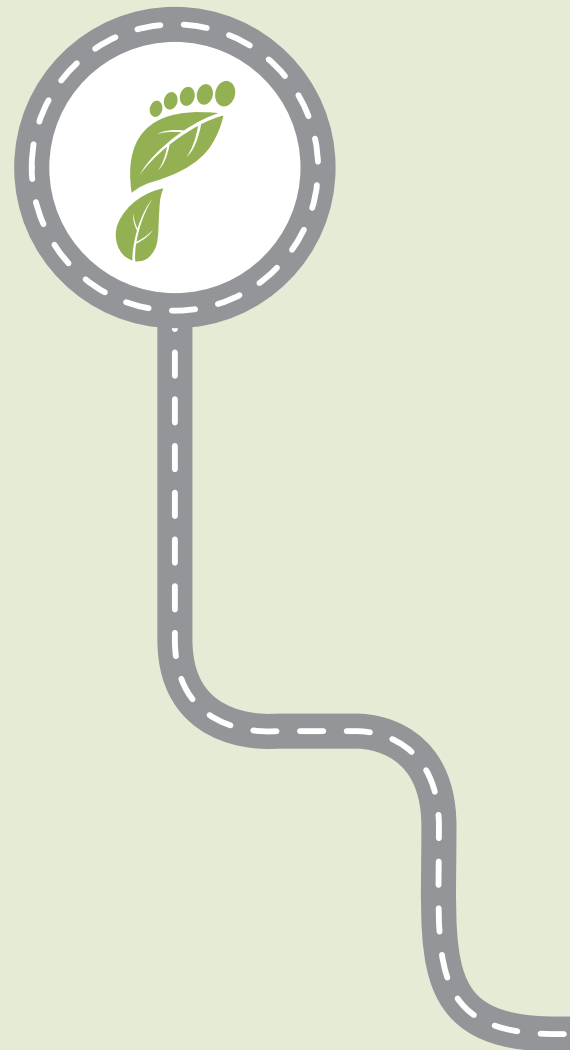
Since its adoption, the EU has been committed to playing an active role at each level. Recent developments such as the **ongoing reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, offer a **unique opportunity to align the three pillars of sustainability**, to enable the conditions towards a strong sustainable EU livestock sector, and to maximize its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



# Environmentally sound

Key policy drivers:

- **Strengthen the role of sustainable livestock in a circular bioeconomy<sup>8</sup>.** Given the contribution that sustainable livestock can bring to a circular bioeconomy, policies should incentivize the regulation of ecological cycles, the recycling of by-products from food crops, the use of marginal land, and the promotion of feed efficiency gains as well as improvements in the sustainability profile of feed sources. Further, a collaborative economy and bio economy projects should be promoted, focusing on innovation, precision farming, environmental management, renewable energies, and local food that can contribute significantly to the solution.
- **Emphasize actions focused on building a stronger knowledge-based agricultural sector.** Promoting research and innovation targeted to the livestock sector is fundamental. The EU should encourage the adoption of science-based solutions to increase the sector's productivity using inputs more efficiently while reducing the environmental impact. In this regard, policies should facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge to farms. Ongoing legislative developments such as the CAP reform represent a window to support farmers in adopting technology and meet the challenges from managing environmentally sustainable increased yields on less land.
- **Underline the role of sustained animal health for environmental performance.** Healthy animals are more productive, thus the resource use is more efficient<sup>9</sup>. Given the strong link between resource use efficiency and emission intensity per unit produced, safeguarding animal health and reducing the share of unproductive animals in the herd can reduce GHG emissions. Improved animal health and productivity requires comprehensive animal welfare and health programs that take into account quality diets, clean and comfortable housing, as well as animal disease prevention and treatment.
- **Take into account environmental qualities in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) calculations.** Policies should consider carbon sequestration achieved by livestock farmers including their cereal crops and grasslands in the GHG calculations. By adopting this approach, the number of GHG estimated attributed to the livestock sector would be reduced.





## Socially Responsible

- **Strengthen the role that sustainable livestock has in the EU key actions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).** Fostering sustainable livestock can significantly contribute to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition, promotion of sustainable agriculture (SDG2), inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG8), climate action (SDG13) and sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12). Key policy instruments like the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU Food Policy should include specific measures for sustainable livestock, aligned to SDGs targets and indicators.
- **Place farmers at the core of ongoing agricultural reforms and future policies.** Policies for sustainable livestock must strike a balance between the reduction of harmful emissions, increased provision of ecosystem services, and increased productivity. This equilibrium should be emphasized in the ongoing reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Adopting sustainability measures should not harm farmers' competitiveness or income; rather they should aggregate value to the output for farmers, rural areas, and animal welfare.
- **Stress the role of sustainability in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.** Under the One Health approach, a collaborative effort to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment is needed. Ensuring wide access to affordable veterinary medicines while promoting their responsible use globally is essential to promote animal health as a key dimension of sustainable livestock.
- **Promote a predictable policy environment that can foster innovation in animal health.** The ongoing Review of the Veterinary Medicines Legislation and Medicated Feed Legislation can serve as an opportunity to harmonise, simplify and modernise the rules that encourage private and public investment in innovation of animal health products, and ensure greater availability of animal health solutions across the EU.
- **Measure animal welfare based on outcomes.** Measures to improve and sustain animal welfare should be science-based, reliable and repeatable, feasible and practical<sup>10</sup>. Farmers should receive support, recommendations on best practices, and guidelines for investing and managing their farms in an animal-friendly way.
- **Enhance the participation of sustainable livestock in the EU fight against food loss and waste.** Given the strong link between sustainable patterns of production and the reduction of food loss, building a sustainable livestock value chain can have a significant impact. Initiatives such as the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste should enhance cross-sectoral collaboration to incorporate technology and science-based solutions to improve the efficiency of livestock value chains, and thus reduce food loss.
- **Bridge the gap between the livestock sector and consumers to improve awareness.** Reconnecting consumers particularly in urbanized areas with the livestock sector is critical. The Commission should incentivize livestock farmers and other stakeholders in the sector to jointly communicate and inform consumers about the realities of the sector, including production mechanisms, improvements, sustainability progress, and the trade-offs.
- **Support the development and efforts of partnerships and multi-stakeholder platforms.** Alliances that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources are crucial to achieve progress towards sustainable livestock. The Commission should support pre-competitive collaboration towards sustainability such as the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform that facilitate discussions and promote the exchange of best practices to improve the sustainability across supply chains.



## Economically Viable

- **Support livestock farmers to remain cost competitive.** Policies should support industry on cost and technology improvements, global level playing field, better market access, and promoting budgets for internal and external market. Further, it is important to facilitate multi-stakeholder cooperation to build strong value chains that are focused on markets.
- **Promote product differentiation based on sustainability as an aggregated value.** Policies should support product differentiation for sustainable livestock in international markets based on sustainability standards. They should aim to ensure that markets and consumers recognize sustainability as an added value while offering affordable products for European and global consumers.
- **Enhance access to technology focused on sustainable production systems.** Farmers should be able to increase the sustainability of their production through technology and innovation. Relevance, utility, cost reduction, increased competitiveness and economic returns should be emphasized when incentivizing livestock farmers to adopt science-based solutions. The EU should support the exchange of experiences among farmers and other activities to incentivize them to adopt technology, as well as promoting alternatives to make technology available and affordable.
- **Promote research on perceptions and expectations of livestock production to adequately respond to consumers evolving preferences.** Consumer preferences regarding products that are sustainable, local, and healthier should be researched. The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability, Horizon 2020, and Food 2030 should address sustainable livestock and innovative solutions to properly respond to those concerns while keeping sustainable animal based food affordable.





## 1. Expand incentives that enable the livestock sector to remain competitive.

By simplifying regulations and ensuring stable policies at the European, regional and national level, farmers are encouraged to plan on the long term crucial investments in technology that can improve their sustainability and increase efficiency.



## 2. Support investments in science, technology and innovation

that focus on fostering a more effective and knowledge-based agricultural sector, and supporting the sustainability of the EU's livestock sector. Fostering innovation can contribute to reduce the environmental impact of livestock production, promote an efficient use of natural resources, improve animal health, and welfare, increase competitiveness for farms of all sizes, and attract young farmers.



## 3. Incentivize the uptake of technologies aimed at improving rural mobility for livestock goods.

Improved mobility enables farmers to better connect with markets, increases the economic viability of rural activities, facilitates the growth of SMEs, promotes inclusive economic growth, reduces urban-rural inequalities, makes food production chains more efficient and thus reduces food loss. These improvements ultimately promote an enabling environment for the development of a sustainable livestock production chain.



## 4. Adopt a holistic legislative approach to enable the development and adoption of all science-based solutions that contribute to sustainable livestock.

Striking a balance between the pillars of environmentally sound, socially responsible, and economically viable.



## 5. Find a common space where the livestock sector can communicate to consumers and other stakeholders

its progress in sustainability, animal health and welfare, through a transparent, validated, science-based, and balanced approach. It is essential to inform consumers about sustainable livestock and allow their feedback in order to improve the perception towards sustainable livestock-by products.

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