

**To:** VISEK Lukas (CAB-TIMMERMANS)  
**Cc:** (AGRI); (AGRI); (AGRI);  
(AGRI); (AGRI)  
**Subject:** CAB Timmermans meeting UECBV on 12 November 2020 - brief summary

**CAB Timmermans meeting UECBV on 12 November 2020**

**EC:** Lukas Visek (Cab Timmermans), (DG AGRI – ), (DG AGRI-  
, (DG AGRI )  
**UECVB:**

**UECBV's** introduction focused on the following:

- Grateful for the meeting.
- UECBV represents 22.000 companies active in the meat sector that employ around 300.000 workers.
- UECBV is currently developing a position paper on the F2F Strategy that will be soon available

**Lukas VISEK** introduced the debate by highlighting that the F2F Strategy is aiming at the following 3 main goals:

- 1) make sure all sectors are truly part of the transition to sustainability.
- 2) make clear that a more balanced diet is needed, which also entails a business opportunity for the animal sector.
- 3) Improve animal welfare. Currently a thorough scrutiny of the framework is ongoing.

**UECBV** raised the following main points in the subsequent discussion:

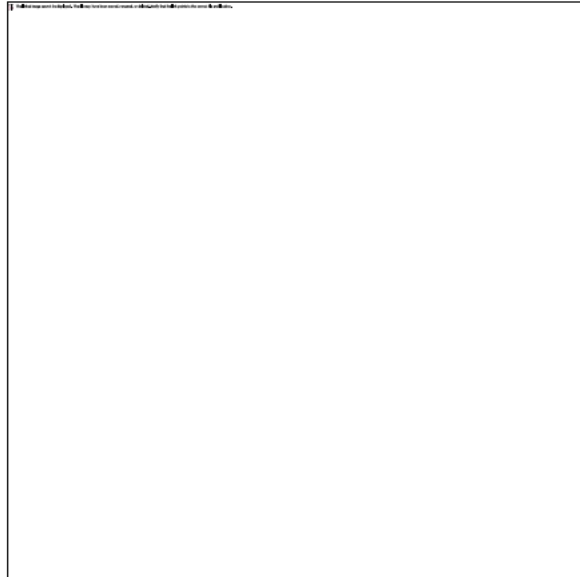
- Willing to contribute and to be recognised as world leader in sustainability.
- Many good examples on GHG emissions and antimicrobial reduction.
- Need more balance in the discussion on diet (meat is good from a nutrient density perspective) and environmental impacts of livestock farming (proper accounting of emissions is essential).
- Also consumption data should not be based on carcass weight. Real consumption is not far from dietary recommendations.
- Trade is important for circularity: the EU exports parts of the animals no more eaten in the EU but valued in third countries, thus avoiding waste.
- Another important factor is economic scale: 185 products are extracted from pigs and many of them are essential (i.e. heparin). Need for carefully thinking of all indirect consequences of reducing meat production.
- Divergence opinion with DG ENV on Environmental footprint methodology (economic vs mass allocation). Other DGs could help in finding solutions.

**Lukas VISEK** confirmed the following:

- Indeed F2F aims to make farmers that already worked on sustainability to be recognised by consumers (sustainability labelling framework in 2023, origin labelling, etc.).
- We should not promote meat consumption in general but promote sustainable methods of production and sustainable diets.
- Business opportunities for farmers (biogas – circularity) and for the whole sector (consumers are willing to valorise sustainable production methods).

- Need for a diet rebalance. Animal products contribution to protein intake is still too high, most of GHG emissions in agriculture are generated by livestock and too much land is used for feeding livestock.
- Impact assessments will clearly forerun any legislative initiative taken in the framework of the F2F Strategy.

Both parties expressed satisfaction on the direct exchange of views.



**European Commission**  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

L130  
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium  
+32  
[@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec.europa.eu)

---

**Notice légale CE DG-AGRI:**

*Ce message exprime uniquement les points de vue de son auteur et ne saurait en aucun cas être considéré comme une position officielle de la Commission. Il est destiné uniquement à la personne à laquelle il est adressé et pourrait contenir des informations confidentielles. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, merci de m'en avertir le plus rapidement possible.*

**Disclaimer EC DG-AGRI:**

*This message represents solely the views of its author and can not in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission. It is intended solely for the person to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please notify me as soon as possible.*