

Brussels, 2nd October 2020

Mr Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels

O/REF: km/sb/L-042-2020

RE: request for a meeting

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,

at the end of last year, the European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (UECBV) presented its initial thoughts on its commitment to participate in the Green Deal and the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, and requested in a letter an occasional meeting.

Thankfully, we had received an offer for talks from your Cabinet at the beginning of this year, which unfortunately could not materialise due to the ensuing crisis situation.

In view of the developments that have taken place in the meantime and the first important decisions that our sector intends to take, we would now like to ask you once again to get in contact directly and at your earliest convenience.

The livestock and meat sector is a key economic player in terms of value but also for food security, public health, animal health and welfare, jobs and trade representing a core of the “Farm-to-Fork” chain. The sector will have to define some milestones that we need to discuss together, taking into account its complexity and singularity not well understood in general public discussions. After we had already been able to publish a method developed over several years for calculating a footprint before the presentation of the Green Deal in September 2019, we would develop further steps via a sensitivity analysis and milestones for implementing carbon neutrality.

We would be happy to discuss this with you and agree on possible options.

Therefore, a discussion with you personally - be it physical or virtual - would be extremely important for us to receive the right signals from your sphere of influence for future steps, which we would then like to discuss in more detail later at Cabinet level and further at technical levels.

Since the Green Deal is a holistic approach, we are very interested in including the different facets of our engagement in rural areas as well as in the different areas of life, work and impact in the discussion. It is therefore all the more important for us that we talk to you directly and at the beginning for making appropriate preparations. Even if only a short meeting can be arranged due to the deadline pressure, this would be of particular importance.

We would therefore ask you to take this opportunity to talk with us about sustainability. From our side, we would like to have the conversation mainly with the 2 Vice-Presidents [redacted] from the Netherlands and [redacted] from Germany, who would be accompanied by Board member [redacted] from Denmark as well as Secretary General [redacted], representing the areas of livestock, meat production and trade, asking for discussion options according to your availability.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]