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The whole is more than the sum of its single parts – Farm-to Fork event with UECBV as a member of the European Livestock Voice (ELV)
Round Table Meeting with Executive Vice President Timmermans

Brussels (Friday 10th December 2021)

UECBV, who acted as spokesperson for its European organisations, addressed Frans Timmermans in particular on the importance of trade for the sustainability transition. UECBV expressed its commitment to and contribution to the further sustainability of the livestock and meat production.

This week, the ELV had invited EU Commissioner Timmermans, who is responsible for the European Commission's sustainability policy, to a Round Table discussion at a farm just outside Brussels. Central to this meeting was the European Farm-to-Fork strategy for European food production. The intention of this meeting was to discuss the contributions that the animal sectors can make to this strategy and to start an action-oriented dialogue on sustainability. These contributions were based on three topics: animal welfare, climate and trade. All organisations involved discussed their contributions from the perspective of their overall interests.

Frans van Dongen, from the Dutch Meat Association and UECBV Representative of the Strategic Group “Farm to Fork”, emphasised the importance of trade for sustainability in Europe, but also outside Europe, and the contribution that the sector and individual companies make to this sustainability by making optimal use of export opportunities. Exports make an important contribution to the much-desired circularity of the sector. Moreover, thanks to exports of meat parts that are less popular with consumers in Europe, extra value is created within the chain, which is essential for financing sustainability. In addition, the export of sustainable European meat and products will make consumers outside the EU aware of sustainability in Europe and create demand for such sustainable products. This contributes to the global sustainable transition, which the European Commission has made a pillar of its Farm-to-Fork strategy.

UECBV is working on a sensitivity analysis for a workable footprint. Frans van Dongen highlighted, as an example, the possibilities of a road map for climate-neutral meat production being investigated in the Netherlands where the Dutch meat sector wants to start communicating the CO2 foot print of meat soon to bring transparency to the consumer regarding the climate impact so that the Dutch consumer can make a choice for meat or alternatives based on objective criteria. Therefore, when defining and communicating the foot print, the proportion of protein in the product must be taken into account. Moreover, the foot print on the label must reflect the actual foot print of that product and not be a generic flat-rate foot print for a product category. Moreover, it will be demonstrated that the difference in climate impact between animal proteins and alternatives is much smaller than is often claimed.

See the European Livestock Voice - ELV - press release HERE as well.
UECBV may remind that the Brussels-based secretariat runs the European Livestock Markets’ Association AEMB as well as the European Natural Sausage Casings Association ENSCA.

Gilles Rousseau, FR, President of AEMB highlights, in addition to the UECBV statement during the event, their activity mostly in rural areas representing the some 300 livestock markets in the EU standing for the efforts of future, Animal Welfare and hygiene of running livestock markets.

Heike Molkenthin, DE, President of ENSCA stands for small and medium-sized enterprises stressing the need of trade as key for the valorisation of natural products linked to the farming and meat industry and therefore supporting the ELV activities.

ENDS

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