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Press Release

UECBV feels need for further checks and balanced improvement of Farm-to-Fork strategy

The European meat sector feels need for further checks and balanced improvement of the today's published Farm-to-Fork-strategy to make sure what is stated to "leave no one behind".

Karsten Maier, Secretary General of UECBV, said: *"We will analyse the text in more detail and comment on specific aspects in the process."*

Of course, we look forward to contributing to the Green Deal, as we committed to.

We will however do this by continuing to promote a sustainable livestock plus meat production and consumption, not forgetting that meat is deeply entrenched in both our culture and eating habits; it constitutes an essential part of a balanced diet, due to its nutrient density, and contributes to the pleasurable aspects of socialising."

The pandemic crisis demonstrated the importance of and the role played by the whole food sector and therefore including the livestock and meat processing sectors as essential providers in the food chain throughout the Covid-19 situation. The meat sector is a very important economic pillar in the EU, particularly for the rural economy across member states. It contributes to direct employment, the livelihoods of farmers and EU trade, and this should kept in mind for the future growth mentioned in the Green Deal.

The EU food system is very complex; it therefore has to be based on sound science, and on reliable figures, while reflecting the original goal of the Common Agricultural Policy in the Treaty of Rome: to produce safe food, in enough quantity to feed the EU; to provide a fair income to the farmers and guarantee affordable prices for consumers, while remaining sustainable from an environmental, economic and social point of view.

For further information:

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UECBV** is the European Livestock and Meat Trades Union. UECBV is an EU association representing in total, some 20,000 firms of all sizes and over 230,000 jobs are represented through its national member federations. The vast majority of these enterprises are small and medium enterprises (SMEs). **UECBV's** core objective is to achieve an optimum business climate for the livestock and meat industry across the European Union and to strengthen the competitiveness of the industry as a whole. To achieve this goal the UECBV **represents and defends the meat** sector vis-à-vis the European Institutions, promotes **EU trade and international trade**, deepens the **internal market and fights against competition distortions.