



EU's New Livestock Strategy and Protein Plan Lack Concrete Commitments

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 9 July 2026 – Just as the [productivity and competitiveness of EU livestock farmers](#) are being tested by global warming, the European Commission has published its [EU Livestock Strategy](#) and [Protein Action Plan](#).

Agroecology Europe and its members welcome the publication of both initiatives, following an extensive consultation process to which many organisations contributed considerable expertise, scientific evidence and practical experience. However, although presented as comprehensive, the two documents remain weak and ambiguous on concrete commitments, lacking the measurable objectives and clear implementation pathways needed to deliver on their ambition.

The two strategies, released on 7 July, reflect many principles long promoted by the agroecological movement: organic farming, territorial approaches, mixed crop-livestock systems, animal welfare, rural vitality, permanent grasslands, extensive livestock production, local and diversified breeds and species, biodiversity, circular resource use, pollinator protection and local feed autonomy. Together, these are the building blocks of an agroecological transition capable of transforming Europe's food systems in a coherent and systemic way. Yet, the Livestock Strategy falls short of providing a coherent and decisive policy shift.

*"The absence of an **explicit reference to agroecology** is striking," says Caterina Batello, Vice-President of Agroecology Europe. "Beyond improving resource efficiency, agroecology connects territorial development, resilient food security, biodiversity, climate action, animal welfare and farmers' livelihoods into a coherent transition pathway. It is encouraging that many elements of the Commission's analysis reflect agroecological thinking. However, without recognising this **systemic approach**, it becomes much harder to connect these individual measures into a coherent transformation where they reinforce one another."*

The two initiatives lack concrete commitments, particularly in areas where decisive action is urgently needed. These include seed sovereignty, pollution, skilled labour shortages, market concentration, changing consumption patterns, nature restoration, waste reduction, gender equality and generational renewal, among others.

"We have already seen how the Fertiliser Action Plan, despite its strong narrative, was followed by €540 million in funding that largely reinforced structural inequalities and business as usual farming, rather than the transition it described," says Dr Matteo Metta, Policy Manager at Agroecology Europe. "At least these new strategies remove any excuse for delaying action. We had hoped for a more coherent vision, but we must now build on what is there, fill the gaps, connect the dots and minimise the trade-offs."

Extensive livestock farmers, ecosystems and animals now need policies that translate ambition into effective, coherent and impactful action, as they are already facing the impacts of heatwaves, droughts, emerging diseases, rising energy costs and increasing production pressures.

The Commission now moves into an implementation phase of both the Livestock Strategy and the Protein Action Plan. Agroecology Europe calls on the Commission to strengthen both initiatives through clearer objectives, stronger policy coherence and dedicated investments capable of supporting the long-term transformation of Europe's livestock systems. These initiatives should support a wide range of actors across EU territories rather than remaining aspirational or beneficial to those who are speculating on this system. The initiatives need to be adapted if communities are to take ownership and actively play a role in EU policy making. The Association will continue working directly with EU institutions to do so, drawing on the [position papers](#), [expert contributions](#) and [policy briefs](#) it has produced on agroecological livestock systems to date.