

## **FESASS contribution to EBAF discussions on 22 January 2026**

We thank you for the invitation to share our expertise and for the great work already done inside the livestock Workstream. FESASS is the federation of farmers' animal health organisations. We gather farmers to fight animal diseases and to improve the animal health status of each and every farm, and collectively at regional and national levels in respect of One Health approach.

The protection of animal health in the livestock sector, as well as the safety of the food chain, are essential and among the most important issues we will face in the coming years. The threats to animal health are becoming increasingly serious. In 2025, seven of the fourteen Category A diseases, identified by the Commission as the most dangerous, were present in the European Union. Some of these have become enzootic, meaning that they are now permanently established in the Union. Highly pathogenic avian influenza and African swine fever are here of particular concern. There are also vector-borne diseases such as Lumpy Skin Disease, of course, as well as the terrible threat of Rift Valley Fever. This disease is approaching Europe and is a deadly zoonosis.

It is therefore essential to be prepared. The strategy for livestock farming must include a comprehensive section on animal health, structured around three key priorities:

Firstly, prevention, which involves developing robust biosecurity measures and promoting preventive vaccination strategies to be implemented in the event of an outbreak of A diseases.

Secondly, maintaining the capacity to control and eradicate diseases, supported by rigorous health protocols, including, where necessary, ad hoc depopulation and movement bans. It is crucial because vaccination is not a systematic miracle solution.

Thirdly, the mobilization of adequate resources, with the creation of a European Animal Health Fund based on a public-private partnership to complement existing mechanisms. This fund will be intended to compensate for indirect losses and to guarantee a secure supply of vaccines against major diseases.

It is important to emphasize that only an ambitious policy to support livestock farming will enable us to maintain the levels of livestock needed to ensure effective mutualization in the face of health risks, as well as to maintain a fully operational veterinary network throughout Europe.

CAP must encourage investment to allow innovation. For example, to respond to the risks of vector-borne diseases, genetic resistance should be developed through the Tropicalisation of European livestock.

Finally, recognizing that animal health falls within the competence of DG SANTE, we urge the Commission to ensure that the livestock strategy includes provisions to ensure consistency between all the Directorates-General concerned.