

Experts recommend a 50% reduction in EU meat and dairy production, while Hogan focuses on technology during future EU Common Agricultural Policy(CAP) debate

Last Thursday September 13, the Foundation for Rural Investment Support for Europe (RISE) released a report on farmed livestock in the EU. In their report entitled "[What is the Safe Operating Space for EU Livestock?](#)", economist and former EU Commissioner for the environment Allan Buckwell and environmental scientist Elisabet Nadeu demonstrate that EU livestock is not currently operating within safe boundaries for environmentally sustainable production. The report also highlights the adverse impact of current EU livestock production on animal welfare.

One key recommendation by the authors is that the EU cuts livestock production by 50%, thereby endorsing NGOs' call for halving meat and dairy production by 50% by 2050 – including Eurogroup for Animals' "50x50 Strategy".

According to Dr Nadeu, one way of decreasing the negative impact of livestock production is to reduce meat consumption and shifting to alternatives, including cultured meat and plant-based protein.

Phil Hogan's online address to the public during the launching event of the report came rather at odd with the observations and recommendations made in the report, as the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development called for the agricultural sector to be more efficient, and envisioned technology, rather than the decrease in production volumes, as the solution to achieve a more balanced livestock production system in the EU. Published earlier this year, the Commission's proposal for the next 2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform similarly dismissed the urgent necessity to reduce meat and dairy production in the EU, and pursued instead the same productivity-oriented policy in complete disregard to the degradation of farm animal welfare in the EU.

For more information please contact:

Alice Di Concetto, Farm Animals Program Officer
+32 (0)2 207 77 11 | a.diconcetto@eurogroupforanimals.org