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**Press Release**  
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## **UECBV-Livestock trade and Meat sector proud signatory of responsible food business Code of Conduct**

The European livestock trade and meat sector is proud to be a signatory of the European Code of Conduct on responsible food business and marketing practices launched today.

Last year, the European Commission invited the UECBV to join the development process of the Code of Conduct on responsible food business and marketing practices. We became actively involved in the drafting of the Code – both directly and through CELCAA, which represents traders in agri-food commodities.

As a signatory, the livestock and meat trade sector is committed to playing its part in *“contributing to transforming the food systems it is operating in within its sphere of influence.”* This is a pathway that the livestock and meat is already on and our members throughout Europe already have a wide range of programs in place to ensure the best environmental performance, to be part of the solution.

Meat is part of our culture and heritage. It is a highly nutritious food, an excellent source of protein and many essential vitamins and remains an important component of a healthy and balanced diet.

Agriculture is one of the few sectors that has managed to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the last 20 years. The UECBV published in 2019 its Red Meat Footprint and is looking forward to continuing building on this.

The UECBV is also involved in initiatives, among which, improving animal welfare during transport (guidelines co-drafted with relevant stakeholders), slaughter hygiene guide to good practices (at a final stage of development) but also circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable value creation and resilience, etc.

The UECBV was one of the first sectors to actively position itself on the Farm to Fork Strategy in 2020 and as a front runner, sees the Code of Conduct as a logical step towards being a responsible actor in the food chain.

The UECBV calls on the EU Commission to continue working on an enabling environment, in dialogue with stakeholders of the food and feed chain.

*“We are pleased to have been part of this process and while some uncertainties remain about how the Code will be handled, we trust that the way we all worked more closely together during the process will help easily clarify remaining issues”,* said Dr. Karsten Maier, Secretary General of UECBV.

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Note to the Editors:

The UECBV is the European Livestock and Meat Trades Union; it represents the national federations of livestock markets, livestock traders and the meat industry. It brings together 50 national or regional federations in 22 EU Member States, Japan, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

For more information, please contact Karsten Maier, Secretary General (+32 493 34 14 68).