



Future of the dairy sector

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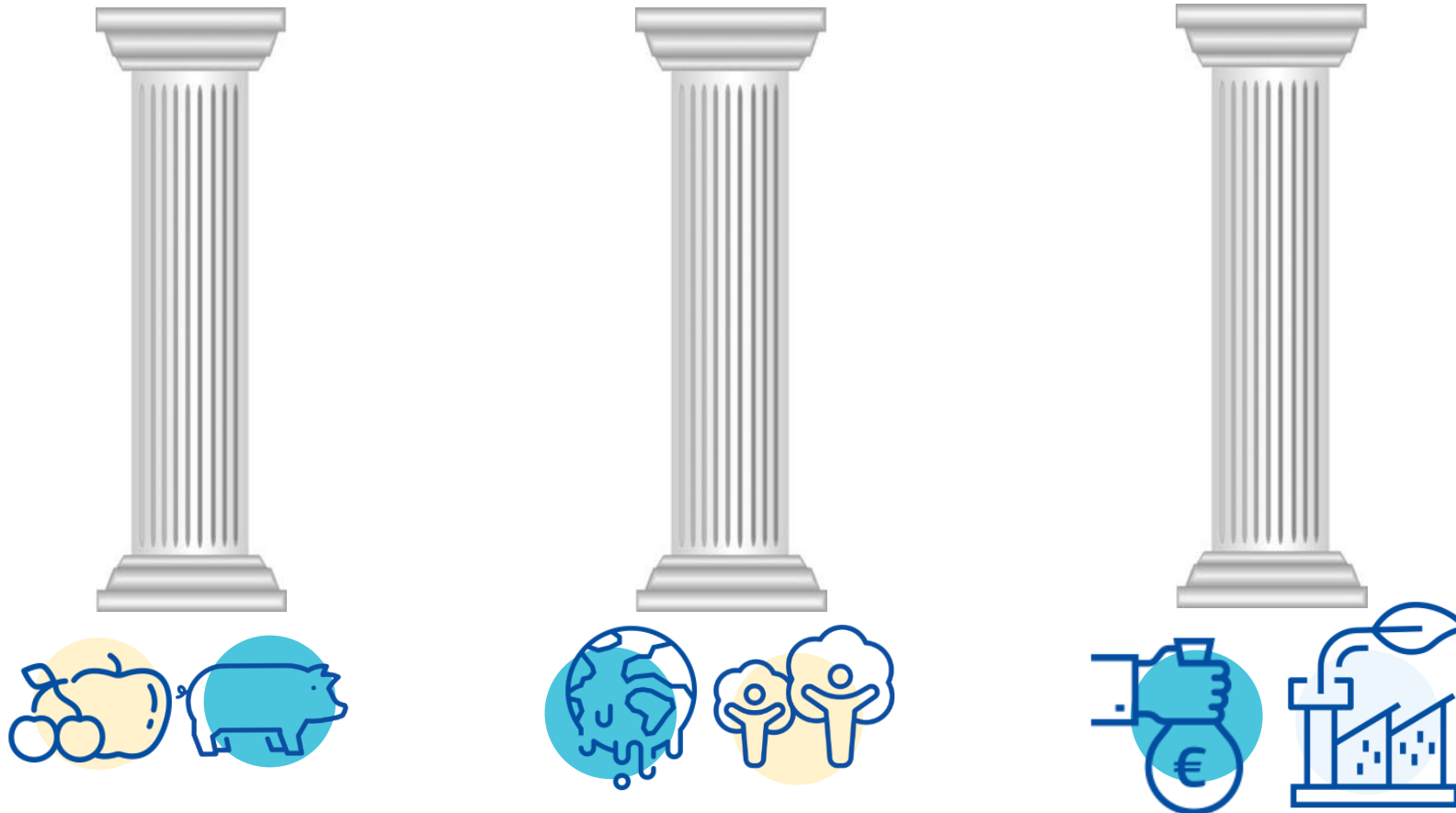
Annual Dairy Forum

Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce

07 April 2022



SUSTAINABILITY



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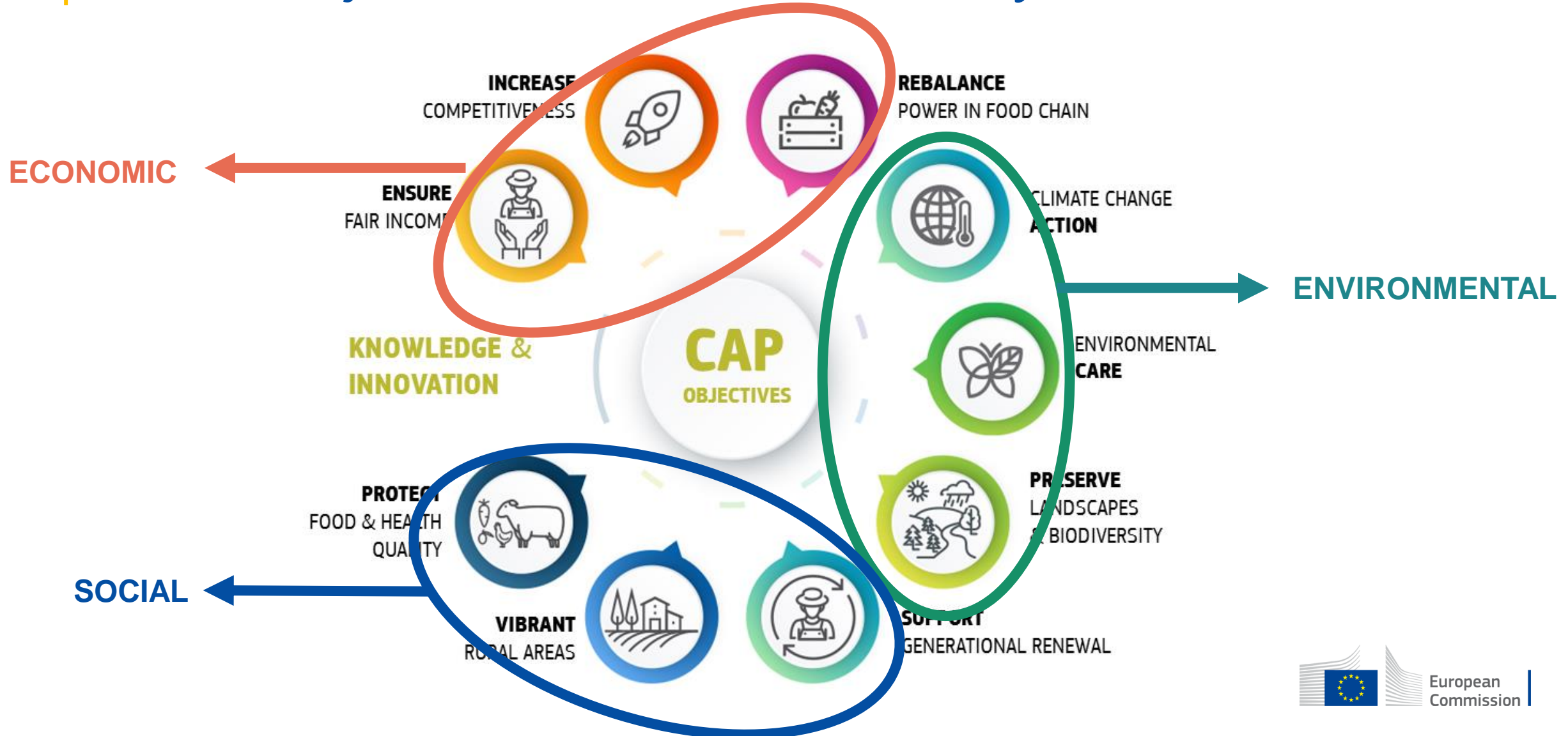
**A Farm to Fork Strategy
for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system**



Key Farm to Fork Initiatives



CAP Objectives & sustainability dimensions

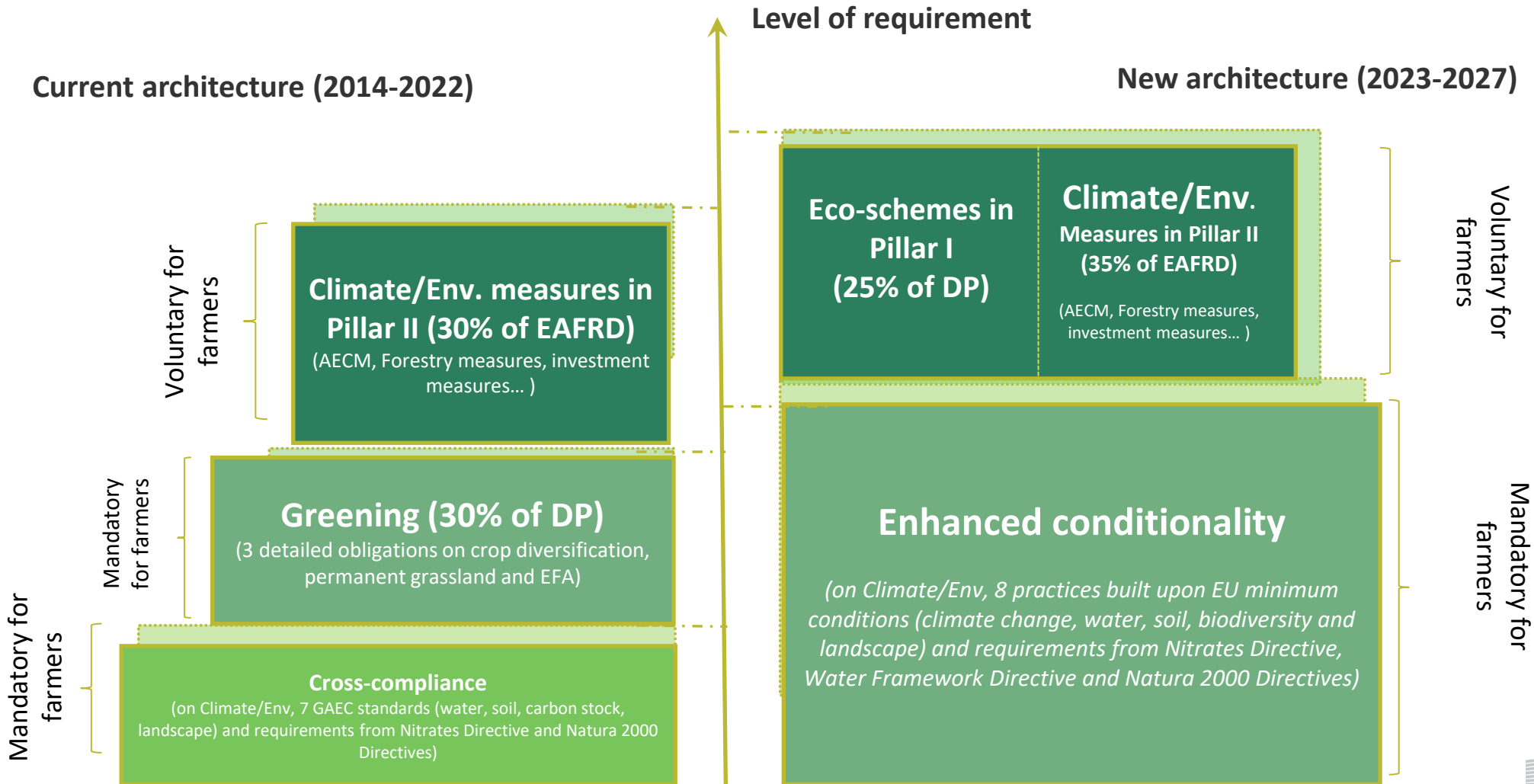


New way of working

- **Single CAP plan** for interventions from both pillars
- **Strategic approach** based on needs assessment
- **Structured dialogue** with Member States
- CAP Plan will be **approved by the Commission**
- Need to **ensure the commonality** while recognising the specificities of each Member State
- Must be **ambitious**



The new Green architecture

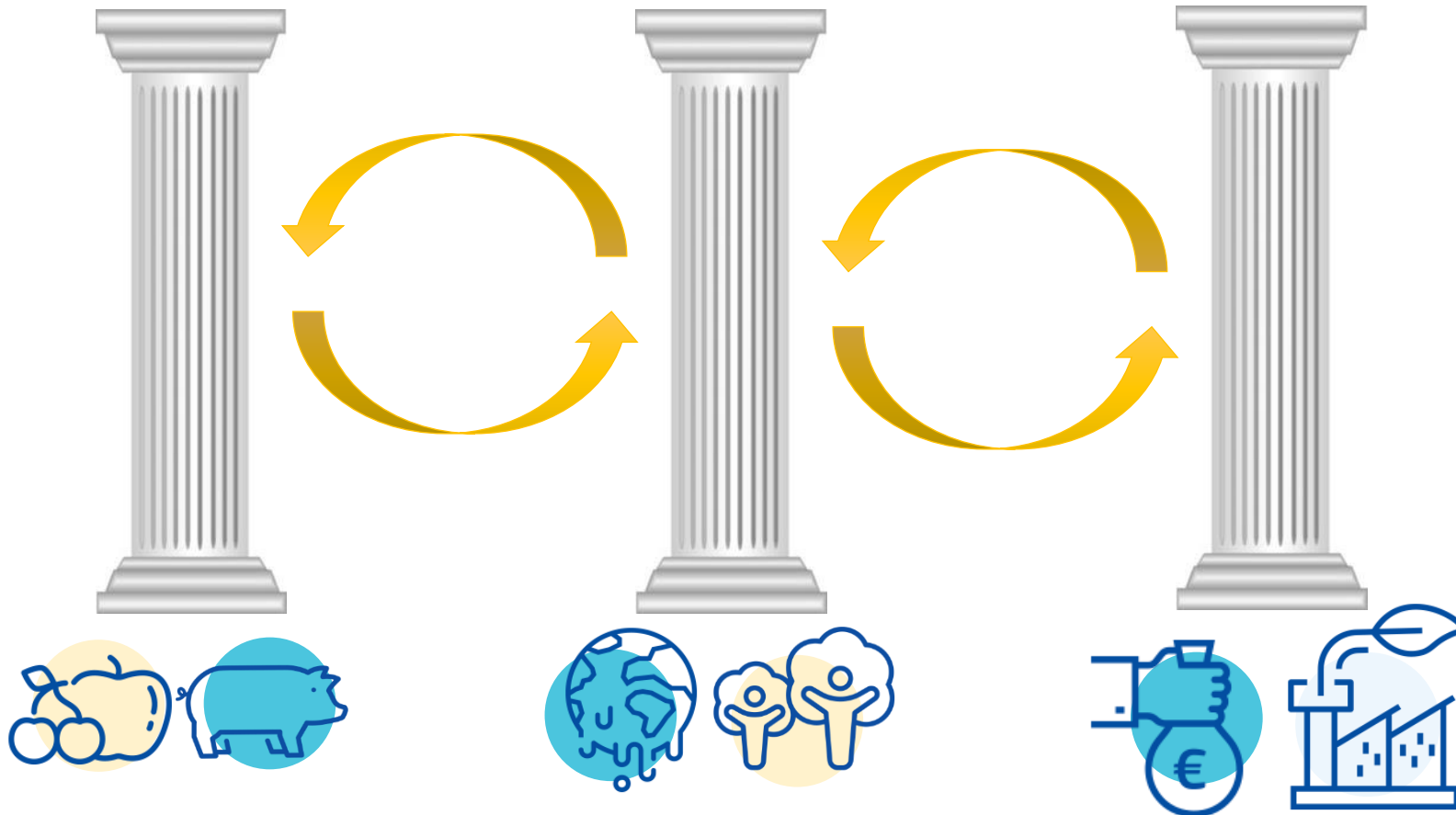


Sustainable dairy production

CAP tools to support sustainable dairy production:

- No “one size fits all”, but a **tailor made approach** at regional, local level to be implemented by a combination of policy instruments.
- Mandatory **conditionality standards** to be fulfilled by all beneficiaries lay important foundation for sustainable farming: maintenance of permanent pasture, water & nitrates legislation, animal welfare...
- **Eco-schemes** payments to support farmers adopting sustainable production practices. Wide range of possibilities, including carbon sequestration, animal welfare.
- Rural development interventions: **agri-environment-climate** actions, **animal welfare actions**. (Including via investments in infrastructure, training or transfer of knowledge and innovation.)
- Support for **producer organisations** (sectoral interventions)

SUSTAINABILITY



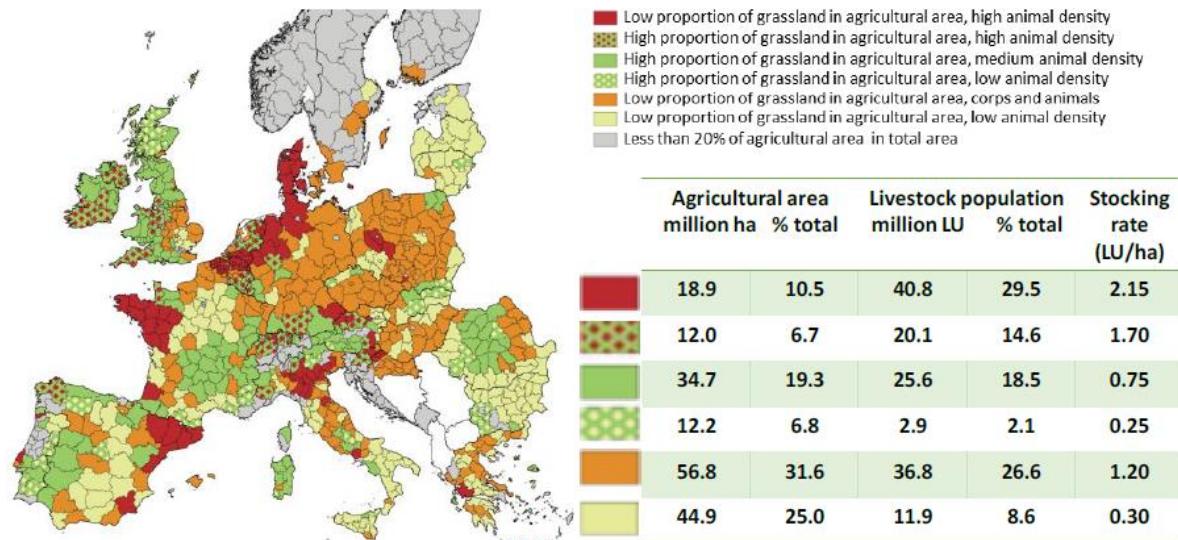
Livestock impact on climate change

- EU agriculture is responsible for some **10%** of total EU GHG emissions.
- Livestock represents the main emission source (some **81-86%**) within agriculture (**50%** of which come from enteric fermentation and manure management).
- EU-28 agricultural GHG emissions decreased by **24%** from 1990 to 2013 and EU agricultural methane decreased by **21%**, mainly thanks to a decreasing cattle herd.
- Emissions have tended to **increase slightly since 2013** due to an increase in animal numbers in some countries (PL, ES) and an increase in nitrogen fertilization linked to increasing animal and **plant** production.



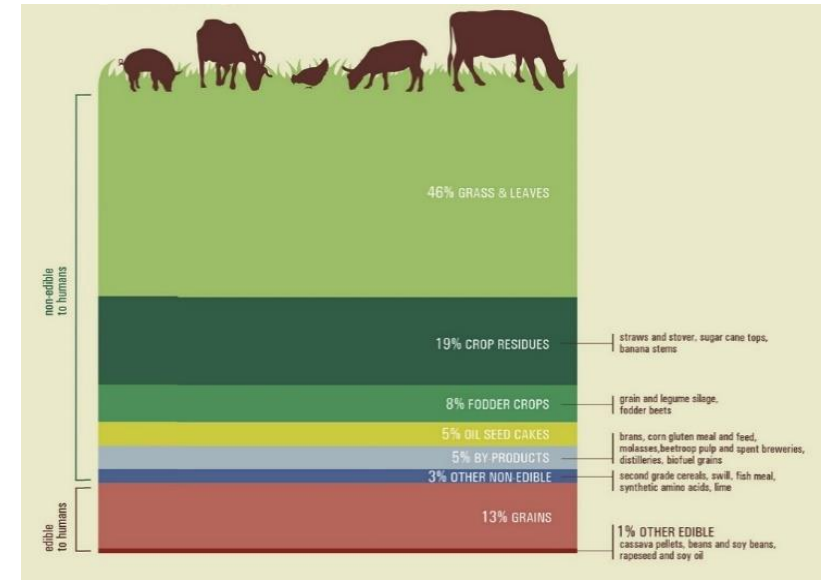
Livestock impact on air, soil and water

- Environmental impacts mainly result from the **concentration of livestock in geographical areas** (close to processing) due to specialisation (no more mixed crop-livestock systems) and scaling-up of production for cost reduction.
- In those areas with high livestock density, **nitrate leakage** is higher in **water**, as well as ammonia and nitrogen emissions.
- Livestock is responsible for **80%** of **soil acidification** and **air pollution** derived from agriculture, and for **73%** of **water** pollution from agriculture.



Livestock positive externalities

- Animals **convert nonedible biomass** into highly nutritious food for humans. At world level, only **14%** of dry matter ingested by livestock is edible to humans (**86% is grass and crop residues**).
- Livestock farming produces food on **57% of land that cannot be used for crops** (marginal land).
- Livestock farming ensures rural vitality and economic activity in regions where it is the **only sustainable economic activity** and crop farming is not possible due to soil/climatic conditions.



Solutions: 6 generic



No ready-made solution, but a case-by-case approach, at regional, local, farm level:

1. Reconnect livestock and arable crops at the farm or regional level to replace chemical fertilizers (essential for organic farming), reduce dependence on imported protein and increase circularity by optimizing the use of available co-products.
2. Include grasslands and legumes more often in crop rotation, to improve soil fertility, biodiversity, reduce pesticides and import dependency.
3. Breed selection (productive, healthy and fertile animals save some 30 MtCO₂eq = 6% of agricultural emissions).
4. Adjust livestock feed (certain additives can reduce methane emissions by 30% without reducing yields).
5. Adjust the infrastructure to evolving animal welfare requirements (fewer antibiotics for healthy animals).
6. Improve and expand knowledge exchange, advice and innovation in animal and manure management.

Solutions: 3 specific for high density areas

In areas with high livestock density:

7. Reduce the number of animals (e.g.: NL).
8. Apply effluent management (manure, slurry) that reduces emissions and losses of nitrates (water pollution).
9. Recover effluents into biogas (large production of biogas saves some 60 MtCO₂eq = 10% of agricultural emissions)



Solutions: 4 specific for other cases



In areas where animals are grass fed:

10. Apply grassland management that reduces nitrogen amendment
11. Protect and develop permanent grasslands (no tillage) to maximize carbon sequestration and offset animal emissions

In areas with high grass density:

12. Preserve other landscape elements of high ecological value

In marginal areas:

13. Preserve extensive farming to maintain a living ecosystem and convert inedible biomass

Possible CAP support for concrete examples

Production system

1. More **temporary grassland** in rotation
2. Longer rotation with **leguminous crop** for feeding
3. **Grazing management optimization** as additional module in FaST
4. **Extensive livestock management** system
5. Increase **grass-fed production**
6. Investment for **agro-forestry system**
7. Payment for **permanent grassland / peatland / wetlands**

Manure management

16. Investment in low-emission **manure storage** system
17. Anaerobic digestion / **methanisation**
18. **Organic fertilisers** / soil improver
19. **Nutrient management plans** at local level
20. Investment in and use of low emission **manure spreading techniques** (ground level application of manure and slurry)

Focus on animals

8. **Feed additives** to reduce methane emissions (3-Nitrooxypropanol, Linseed, Seaweed)
9. **Increased share of co-products** in the feed ratio
10. **Precision protein feeding** (avoiding N surplus in the ratio, reducing leakage)
11. **Use of sexed semen in dairy herd** enhancing meat production from the dairy herd (maintain output using fewer resources)
12. **Increased number of lactations per dairy cow** to increase efficiency (maintain output using fewer resources)
13. Maintain/re-introduce **local resistant breeds**
14. Invest in more **animal welfare**, such as improved **housing** systems (including e.g. new ventilation systems, filters for methane)
15. Support **carbon audits** for better management and for labelling purposes

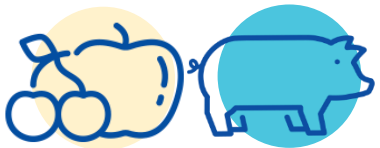
Knowledge and innovation

21. vocational or specific **training courses** for farmers or advisors
22. use of **advice by farmers**
23. setting up of **advisory services**, e.g. for **innovation support**
24. **on-farm demonstration** activities

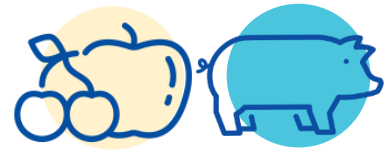


Human health and animal welfare

- A link has been established between excessive meat consumption and chronic diseases, in particular cardiovascular diseases (in the EU, the consumption of red meat is 30% higher than the nutritional recommendations - 500 g).
- Red meat is classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and processed meat as "carcinogenic to humans".
- Animal welfare plays on human emotions. Ill-treatment and the systematic disrespect of EU rules on animal welfare cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Implementation needs to be strengthened and standards need to be improved (planned action on animal welfare in the farm to fork strategy).



Animal welfare

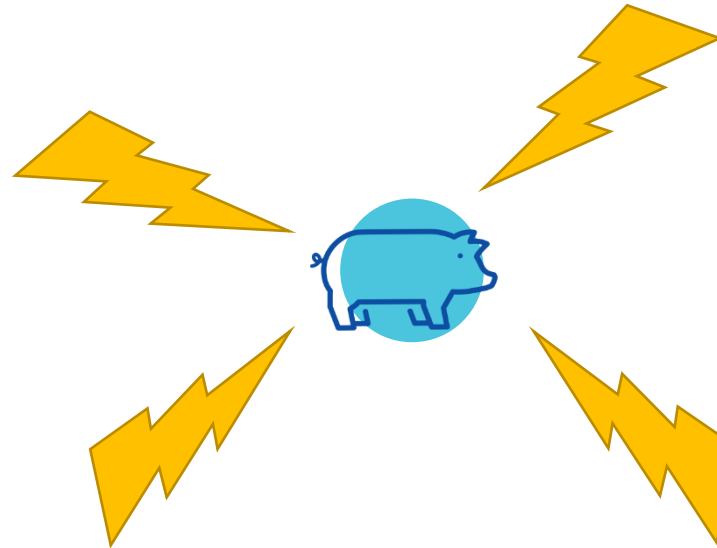


CAP reform

- Conditionality
- Ecochemes
- Sectoral interventions
- Rural Development

Farm 2 Fork

- Fitness check
- Labeling
- Targets CAP Plans



ECI

- End of cage age
- Species

European Parliament:

- Transport
- Framework law

Council EU:

- Species
- Transport
- Labelling
- Communication

Social (or) environmental sustainability



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH LIVESTOCK

A GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF EMISSIONS AND MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES



...wear, but it's good to hear the two sides of the story about livestock. Like a choice, you also choose all of the consequences!

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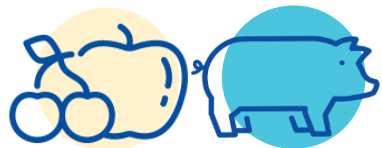
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Review
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Nathan Cofnas

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