



## Issue of the month

### Livestock “in the balance”



FEFAC welcomes the FAO report on “[Livestock in the Balance](#)” as a milestone providing an in-depth analysis of the key impacts and challenges of the global livestock sector responding to rising global demand for nutritious livestock products. FAO underlines

the capacity of the livestock sector to make a positive contribution to mitigate the impacts of its activities “through adoption of improved technologies” as highlighted by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf in his foreword. We sincerely hope that its conclusions will lead to a more “balanced” discussion about the role of livestock at EU and global level.

FAO calls in Chapter 1: **Livestock in the balance** for the implementation of appropriate policies to mitigate the negative impacts of livestock in feed but highlights the need to proceed in a non-discriminatory way in order to prevent an arbitrary displacement of environmental burden from one livestock sector to another. A holistic, science-based, well coordinated action is crucial to ensure that the livestock sector can continue to meet societies’ demand for poverty reduction, food security, environmental sustainability and improved human health. In our experience all agricultural policies including the CAP need to be “rebalanced” in favour of livestock producers.

The report identifies in Chapter 2: **Change in the livestock sector** key improvements in feed technology, such as “balanced feeding

and precision feeding, the optimal addition of amino-acids and micro-nutrients as well as improved grazing techniques and improved pasture species”. We can still see a great potential to significantly improve feed efficiency in all major species. In addition, the feed sector gives value to the sharply rising volume of food industry co-products and surplus foods which can be safely used in feed production. This use is a major contribution to reduce the environmental impact of food production.

FAO dispels the myth of food vs. feed in Chapter 3: **Livestock, food security and poverty reduction** by pointing to the quality differences between animal proteins and vegetable proteins while stressing the economic buffer function of the livestock sector. FAO also underlines the role of intensive livestock production as an important source of affordable animal-based food for an increasingly urban global population. FAO therefore concludes that the livestock sector is central to food security not only to rural smallholders but also for urban consumers in all four main dimensions of food security: availability, access, stability and utilization.

The European feed industry is fully committed to implement its knowledge on improved feeding management and improved feed conversion as two key pillars of the FAO strategy to address GHG emissions set out in Chapter 4: **Livestock and the environment**. This area is the top research priority of the leading commercial feed manufacturers who are increasingly adopting carbon-neutral objectives. Their ongoing research confirms the FAO’s conclusion in that the livestock sector has enormous potential to contribute to climate change impact mitigation.

### The feed industry in action

The revised draft EU Catalogue of feed materials was officially submitted in March 2010 by 39 feed business organisations, including COPA-COGECA, to the EU Commission services for the consideration of the Standing Committee (SCoFCAH).

The Catalogue consists of two main parts: a revised non-exhaustive list of feed materials preceded by an explanatory preamble and an updated glossary of processes. The revised list subdivided in 13 categories contains approximately 540 entries; the glossary, which is still under construction, will contain approximately 55 process definitions which are referred to in the feed materials descriptions. The purpose of this co-regulation exercise was to better reflect the situation of the feed materials market in the EU in order to improve market transparency thus facilitating the exchange of information on the product properties between the producer and the purchaser of feed materials.

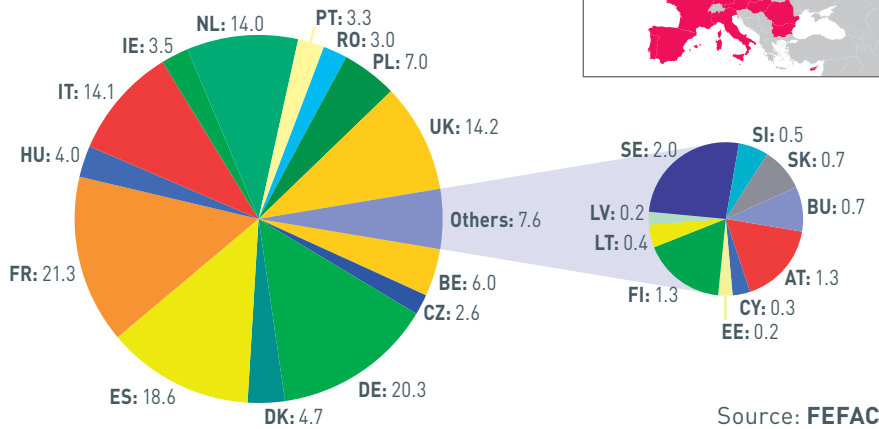
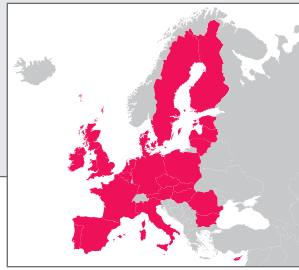
At the first Working Group meeting of the Standing Committee on 29-30 March 2010, DG SANCO and Member States welcomed the Catalogue and provided a number of technical suggestions to further improve the legibility of the Catalogue in view of preparing the final version to be submitted to the European Parliament under the scrutiny procedure. The Catalogue should ideally be adopted and published as from 1 September 2010, when the new feed labelling rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 become applicable.

## News of the Feed & Food Chain

On the occasion of the [CEN/ENEA workshop](#) held on 18-19 March 2010 on the issue of asynchronous and asymmetric GM approvals, the JRC confirmed the growing threat of major disruptions to EU feed and food supply due to the exponential growth of new GM events which are expected to be authorised and grown in major export countries over the coming 5 years. The objective of the whole EU food & feed chain is to seek formal adoption of this technical solution before the next harvest in October/November 2010 in order to avoid new crisis situations on the feed and food markets and further economical damage of EU livestock farmers and feed and food business operators.

# Facts and Figures

## EU compound feed production Results for 2009



Source: FEFAC

FEFAC estimates the compound feed production for the EU-27<sup>1</sup> in 2009 at 144 mio. t, i.e. 4.5% below the figure for 2008 (150.6 mio. t). The significant downturn has affected all animal species, in particular cattle feed (around -8%), pig feed (-6%) and, to a lesser extent poultry feed (-1%). These provisional results are perfectly in line with the FEFAC expert forecast from April 2009, who tabled on a 5% decrease for 2009.

Four key factors have weighed on the EU feed demand in 2009:

- The dramatic crisis affecting the dairy sector.
- The continuation of the downward slope of the pig production cycle.
- The low market prices for cereals, which led to higher on-farm usage.
- The financial crisis, which led to lower consumer demand for products of animal origin, i.e. to a switch to less expensive animal protein sources.

FEFAC's market experts forecasted a stable production in 2010 at the low 2009 level, while recognizing the risks for a further reduction due to continuing problems in the dairy and pig meat sectors.

<sup>1</sup>Greece, Malta and Luxembourg excluded

## International news

The **3<sup>rd</sup> IFIF Global Feed & Food Congress** hosted by the Mexican Feed Industry Association CONAFAB from 20-23 April 2010, with technical assistance from FAO, will address key developments on food security and safety, sustainability of livestock production and global feed safety systems and animal health programmes. Approximately 50 high level

speakers from international governmental organisations, national authorities, industry and stakeholders will present the key results and challenges of private and public sector research projects. Former EU Commissioner for Public Health, David Byrne, will provide an opening statement on Food Policies, Animal Agriculture and the Feed Trade.

# feed facts

## On the feed agenda:

- **III<sup>rd</sup> Global Food & Feed Congress**, 20-23 April 2010, Cancun
- **3<sup>rd</sup> FEFAC Sustainability Task Force meeting**, 27 May 2010, Brussels
- **XXV<sup>th</sup> FEFAC Congress**, 9-12 June 2010, Hamburg



XXV FEFAC Congress  
9-11 June 2010, Hamburg



www.fefaccongress2010.eu



For more information, please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General or see our website.

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## The website of the month

[www.food-scp.eu](http://www.food-scp.eu)

The European Food Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Round Table is a public-private initiative that is co-chaired by the European Commission and food supply chain partners and supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and European Environment Agency. There are 24 member organisations representing the European food supply chain. Participation in the European Food SCP Round Table is also open to consumer representative organisations and environmental/nature conservation NGOs.

