



Dear Chairpersons and Vice Chairs of the political groups of the European Parliament,

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Dear Decision Makers,

On behalf of Green REV Institute and Animal Save Movement we would like to thank you for the European Parliament's Resolution on COP27¹.

We appreciate the contribution and work of Members of the European Parliament for climate action, defending the ideas and ambitions of the European Green Deal at a time of war in Europe, economic crisis and rising populism.

However, we must note that the Resolution lacked a comprehensive approach to a just transition and a solid indication of the impact of the agricultural sector and food production system on the decline of biodiversity, deforestation, threats to Indigenous Peoples, human rights violations, water, air, soil pollution, inefficient use of land - for growing feed crops and farmed animals.

Your resolution includes only a few sentences about switching to healthier diets and the impact of agriculture on methane emissions and it is not enough to fix a system that is destroying animals, people and the planet.

We want to remind you that the European Commission is in advanced work on legislation for a Sustainable Food System Law. This initiative is extremely important, because it is the food system, along with fossil fuels and transportation, that is driving the climate catastrophe. The European Commission has identified several issues that the Sustainable Food System is expected to address, including:

- the uptake of sustainable production practices by primary producers is not linear or even across the EU, with negative impact on climate change and the environment;
- lack of incentives (e.g. financial, research and innovation) for actors of the food system to produce/place sustainable food on the EU market;

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0373_EN.pdf

- negative environmental and social, including health, externalities are not effectively reflected in the price or cost of foods creating market distortion favorable to unsustainable food products and related food operations;
- insufficient allocation of cross sectoral responsibilities to the different actors of the food system for transitioning towards sustainability;
- imperfect competition (imbalances in market power in the food chain);
- lack of general provisions to consider sustainable food and food systems aspects in relation to exports and imports;

We would like to point out just a few of the effects of the current food system, based on unsustainable animal production and public financial support, with instruments such as the Common Agricultural Policy and cohesion policy, as well as research and development funds such as Horizon 2020:

- In Europe, the animal production sector is responsible for 78% of biodiversity loss on land, while being the source of as much as 4/5 of soil acidification and air pollution²;
- By 2050, the human population could exceed 9.8 billion people³. Between 2030 and 2050 according to WHO, climate change is expected to cause about 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress⁴. Today some 3 billion people suffer from one or more manifestations of poor nutrition (malnutrition, including vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and/or overweight or obesity). According to IFAD, these problems cost the world about \$3.5 trillion every year⁵;
- By the current food system, then, by September 2020, \$11.7 trillion had been transferred worldwide for the effects of coping with COVID-19⁶, an amount 19,500 to 117,000 times the estimated annual cost of stopping deforestation in the Amazon and 28 to 48 times the annual cost of mitigating climate change projected for 2030⁷;

² A. Leip [et al.], *Impacts of European livestock production: nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus and greenhouse gas emissions, land-use, water eutrophication and biodiversity*, Environmental Research Leers” 2015/10.

³ <https://www.un.org/en/desa/world-population-projected-reach-98-billion-2050-and-112-billion-2100>

⁴ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/climate-change/fast-facts-on-climate-and-health.pdf?sfvrsn=157ecd81_5

⁵ <https://www.ifad.org/documents/30600024/1de3ffab-3f64-4bb3-be80-6b8394236c9e>

⁶ IMF (2020), ‘Chapter 1 - Fiscal Policies to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic’, Fiscal Monitor: Policies for the Recovery, October 2020, Washington, DC: IMF, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/FM/Issues/2020/09/30/october-2020-fiscal-monitor#Chapter%201>

⁷ Mongabay (2008), ‘How much would it cost to end Amazon deforestation?’, 27 January 2008, <https://news.mongabay.com/2008/01/how-much-would-it-cost-to-end-amazon-deforestation>



- Industrial animal production systems contribute 32% of global methane emissions (<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/methane-emissions-are-driving-climate-change-heres-how-reduce-them>);
- The animal agriculture sector uses more than 8% of global water consumption, including about 70% of available fresh water⁸;
- Deforestation associated with animal agriculture is responsible for about 2.4 billion tons of CO2 emissions into the atmosphere each year⁹;
- Agricultural crops, some of which are fed to farmed animals, occupy 12% of the planet's land surface. However, much more land (about 26%) is used for grazing: in other words, to feed farmed animals meat and milk from pasture. However, in this vast area, animal fed exclusively on pasture produce only 1% of the world's protein¹⁰;
- Animal agriculture has an impact on health, both for those working on industrial farms and those living in the vicinity¹¹;
- In addition to chemical and physical hazards, the threat is posed by harmful agents of biological origin, which include micro and macroorganisms (bacteria, viruses, actinomycetes, fungi) and the structures and substances they produce, which have an adverse effect on humans and which can cause ailments and diseases of occupational origin, among others¹².

A comprehensive picture of the victims of the current food production sector and the activities of industrial farms in Poland is shown in the recent publication by Dr. Sylwia Spurek (Member of the European Parliament) : White Paper: Stench, Blood and Tears.

In view of the above, we call on you to:

- Support the European Commission's proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems;
- Endorse the Plant Based Treaty, the first global treaty which aims to repair the food system, and protect human and animal rights. The Plant Based Treaty was modeled

⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water-in-agriculture#1>

⁹ The Humane Society of the United States. "Animal Agriculture & Climate Change." Web Accessed April 18, 2015.

¹⁰ https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/reports/fcm_gnc_report.pdf

¹¹ <https://futurefood4climate.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Smrodkrewilzy-SylwiaSpurek.pdf>

¹² <https://futurefood4climate.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Minister-Zdrowia-z-upowaznienia-do-Pana-T-Latos-dot-wplywu-ferm-na-zdrowie-ludzi-uzupelnienie-stanowiska-6.2022-2-1.pdf>



after the Fossil Fuel Treaty and is the first global roadmap for a green, equitable transformation of agriculture and the food production sector;

- Include the role of the green, just transformation of agriculture and the food production sector in the work on actions for the climate, the planet, animals, and people.

Sincerely,

Green REV Institute

Animal Save Movement

Green REV Institute is a green think tank from Poland, initiator and operator of the Future Food 4 Climate coalition, which brings together 65 civil society organizations from Poland and Ukraine;

Animal Save Movement is a global network of activists that bear witness to animals at the gates of slaughterhouses in order to expose and dismantle animal exploitation industries.