

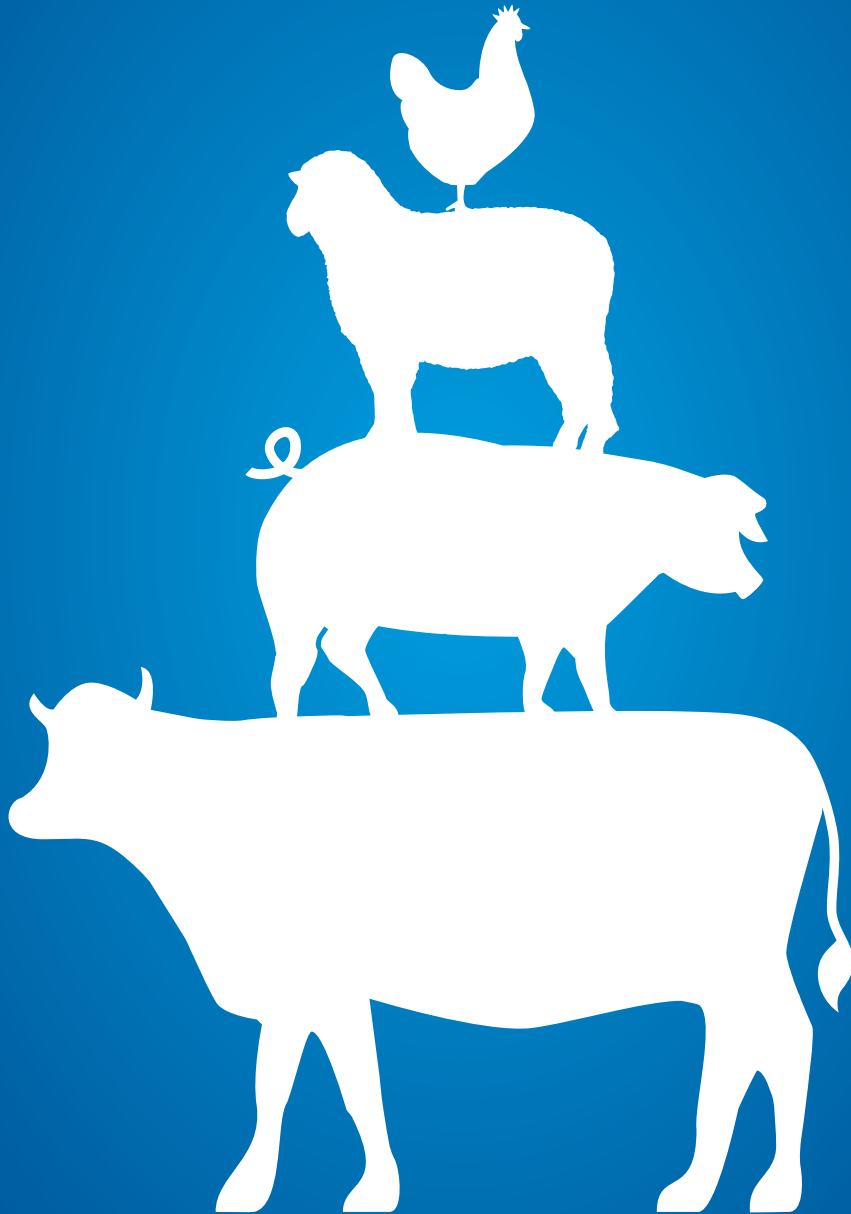


# FESASS

*Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale  
et la Sécurité Sanitaire*

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2015**



# **STRONGER TOGETHER!**

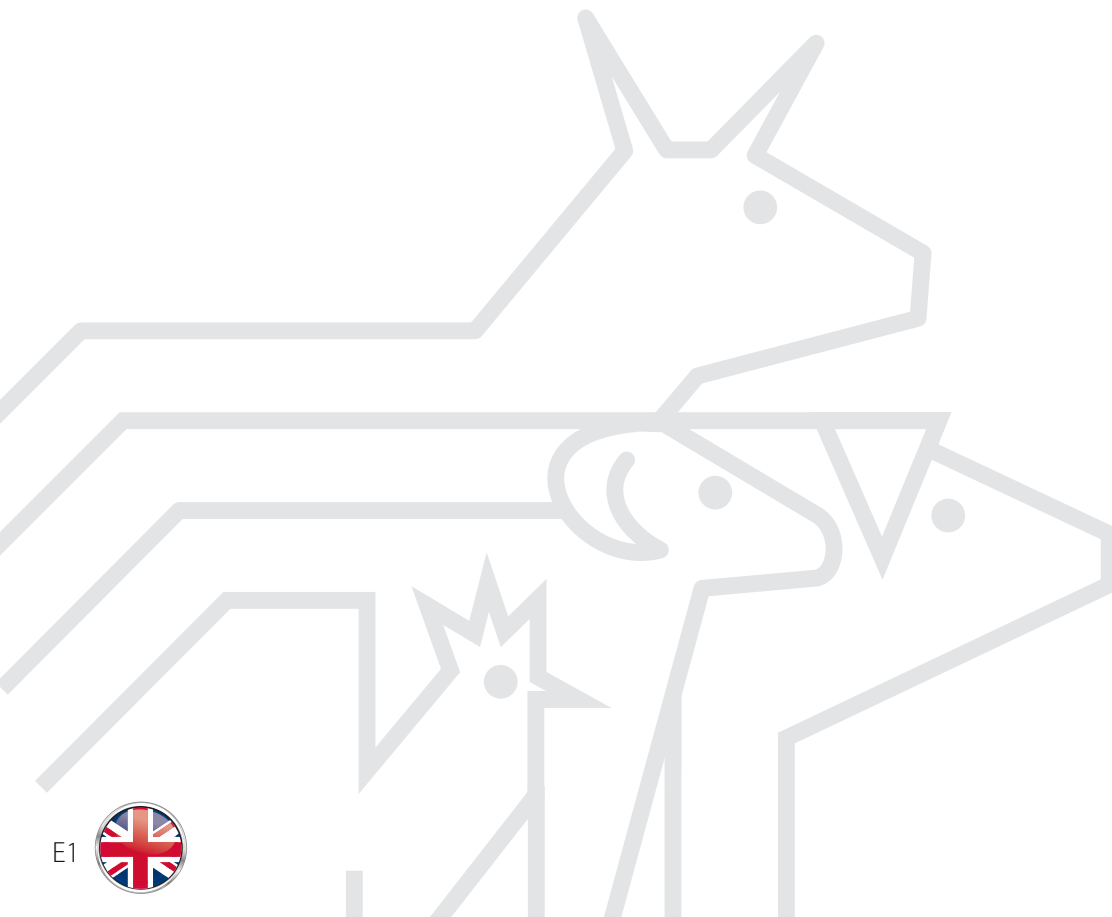
## ***Brussels - 20 March 2015***

*As organization that is competent and respected at the political level, the European Federation of Animal Health Services (FESASS) is representing the interests of European livestock farmers and animal health professionals, with the objective to improve the health and welfare of farmed animals, food safety and food security.*



**DIDIER DELMOTTE**  
**PRESIDENT OF FESASS**

*We want to develop the regulatory framework for creating value and competitiveness of the livestock sector, i.e. increasing the income of livestock farms and enhancing the sustainability of production systems. Our objective serves the best interests of society and consumers.*



The FESASS is the European voice of a sustainable animal health and food safety policy. Our work contributes to a responsible management of livestock and natural resources in order

- to produce sufficiently healthy, safe and affordable food with the least stress for the animals and for the environment as well as
- to strengthen value added in rural areas and to address the rural exodus.

Fighting hunger in the world was and is not possible without animal husbandry. The breeding and keeping of livestock is a major cultural heritage of mankind and shapes the rural regions. Trade and transport are essential for the multifaceted agriculture – based on the division of labour - and necessary to market products and animals as well as to generate income. Agriculture, and particularly livestock, is exposed to natural and society- related risks - such as drought, pathogens in fauna and wildlife, international traffic of goods, animals and people: risks which are not caused by farmers - but can jeopardize their existence.

Good governance at national and European level must secure the livestock sector sustainably. The solidarity of farmers and their organizations is necessary and important in order

- to successfully manage the risks of animal husbandry and agriculture and
- to optimally utilize the opportunities and funds that are available.

One can only compete with healthy animals. Therefore financial assistance for the prevention and prophylaxis of diseases and infections by common or public funds does not distort competition. Rather, such a funding provides a level playing field.

Health is the basis and prerequisite for the welfare of humans and animals, the food supply and food safety.

Animals as well as live and dead vectors affiliated with livestock production are the main infection routes of infections. The risks to the health of the livestock and to the food safety by movements of animals and people, contaminations or other environmental impacts should be minimized. The anatomical conditions and immunity of female farm animals ensure a high level of fetal protection and enable the production of offspring, which are free from specific infections. This was and is the basis for any successful disease eradication and control.

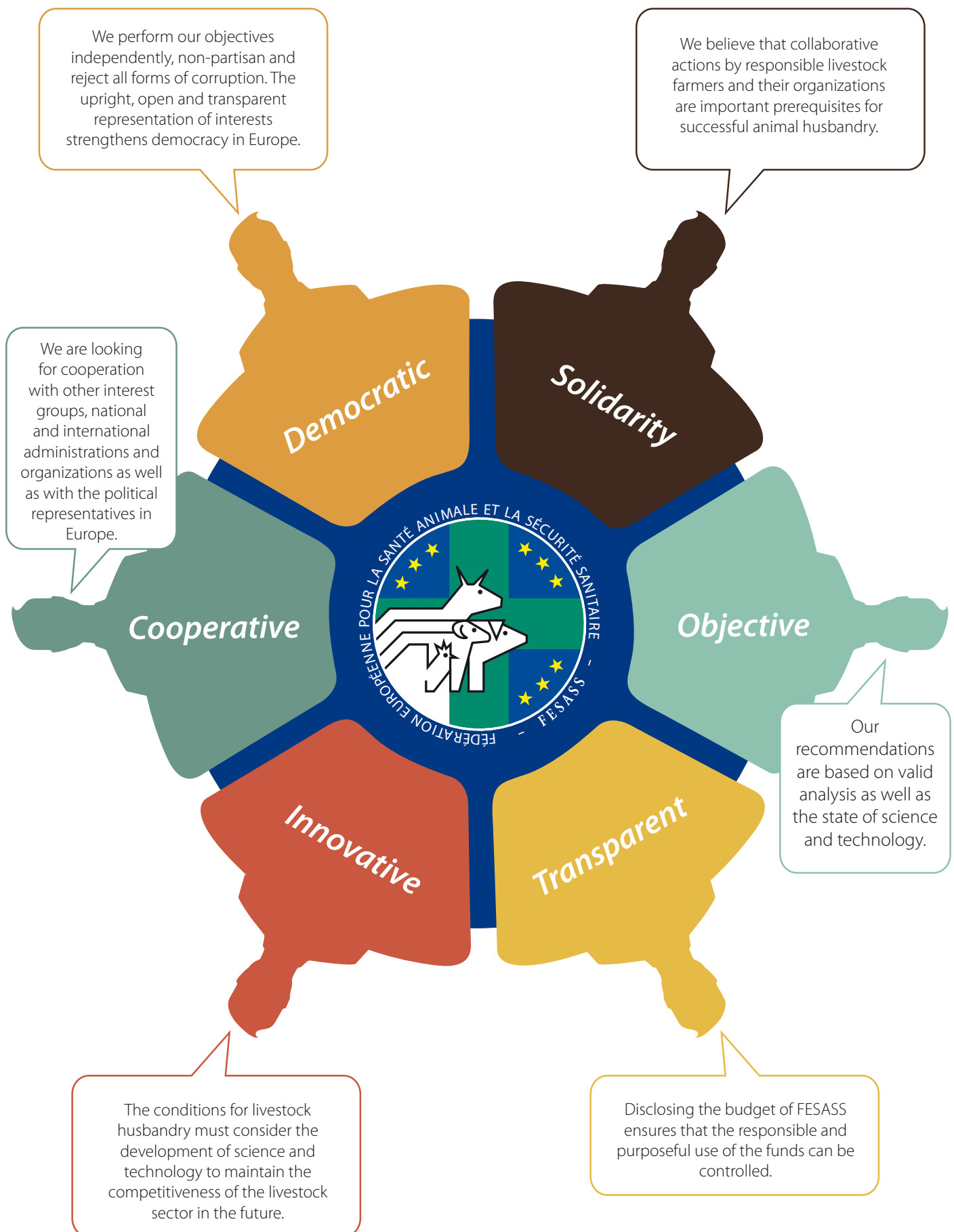
The health and the welfare of livestock is the responsibility of the animal owner and is protected mainly by the

- careful handling of animals,
- animal-friendly husbandry systems,
- feeding that meets the nutritional demands,
- maintenance and optimal development of the genetic resources and of the productive performance of livestock by balancing performance, disease avoidance and vitality;
- appropriate biosecurity, which minimizes infections,
- sufficient care, hygiene and prompt veterinary therapy.

The diagnosis of infections and diseases by accepted clinical, epidemiological and laboratory diagnostic methods based on the state of science and technology is the basis for the objective and comparable assessment of the health status of animals and herds. The certification of the animal health status according to uniform, European standards contributes significantly to the safety of livestock and food production.

In this sense and in the interest of European livestock farmers, FESASS advises decision makers in politics, administration and businesses based on evidence in agricultural science and veterinary medicine as well as from the experience in animal husbandry and food production.

## OUR VALUES



## POLICY OBJECTIVES

### OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS **TO IMPROVE ANIMAL HEALTH** BY:

- the promotion of effective, timely, therapeutic and prophylactic measures ;
- the development and implementation of co-ordinated, systematic control and eradication programmes for significant animal diseases and infections ;
- the promotion of farm biosecurity, with the aim of minimising the spread of animal diseases between and within farms ;
- the optimisation of genetic resources through research and breeding programmes that take account of performance capacity, disease resistance and vitality ;
- the promotion of recognised methods of diagnosis and the quality of laboratories ;
- the promotion of uniform standards of certification of animal health status, in relation to unregulated diseases, at the national and European level.

### HOWEVER, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OPTIMAL ANIMAL HEALTH WILL CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO A WIDE RANGE OF ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES :

- to the **PROFITABILITY** of livestock farming, by controlling and eradicating diseases of economic importance to European livestock farmers ;
- to the **SUSTAINABILITY** of livestock farming, by mitigating the economic, environmental and social risks associated with such enterprises ;
- to the **WELFARE OF ANIMALS**, by promoting respect and consideration for animals, appropriate systems of animal husbandry and a diet appropriate to the nutritional requirements of each individual species ;
- to **FOOD SAFETY**, by reducing or eliminating at farm level the burden of actual or potential zoonotic pathogens and contaminants ;
- to the **RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT** by reducing waste, thereby minimising the production of greenhouse gases ;
- to **HUMAN HEALTH** by improving animal health and animal welfare, resulting in a reduced need for the use of antibiotics in livestock production ;
- to the **FOOD SUPPLY** by safe food at affordable prices ;
- to the **SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES**, by improving the profitability of farms and other enterprises based in rural areas ;
- to **CONSUMER PROTECTION**.





## OUR ACTIVITIES

- Providing evidence-based advice to European farmers, animal health professionals, decision-makers and multipliers from politics, administrations and businesses operating in the agri-food sector.
- Regular exchange of information and views on animal health-related issues with the directorate generals and services of the European Commission, their advisory groups, the standing committees of the European Parliament, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and national Parliaments.
- Adoption and promotion of common positions on animal health-related matters at national, European and international level.
- Co-ordination and harmonisation of systematic animal health programmes between member organisations, and, as a consequence, between the EU member states.
- Dissemination of best practice information on animal health between our members and other interested parties, through the organisation of international conferences and other forums for knowledge exchange.
- Identification of critical knowledge gaps in the field of animal health and food safety and supporting of publicly funded research in order to address such deficiencies.



## NEXT STEPS

### A High priority

### B Priority

### C On longer term

- A** Renewal of our network involving the European Commission and the European Parliament after the elections, by personal contact and parliamentary evenings.
- A** Participation in working groups and committees of the European institutions and organizations.
- A** Recruiting new members, mainly from countries of the European Community.
- B** Conferences on current topics and demands affecting livestock sector and food production.

Development and distribution of own positions concerning :

- B** the responsible and ethical practice of the livestock farmers in dealing with animals and other resources
- C** the environmental impact of animal husbandry
- B** the avoidance of old and new animal epidemics
- B** the prudent use of antibiotics and management of multi-resistant pathogens
- B** Information for member organizations and their members via internal websites or circular mails
- C** Increasing the knowledge and understanding of the reality and the needs in the livestock sector, and the upstream and downstream sectors, of multipliers through first hand experiences like e.g. visits of animal farms, animal health services, laboratories, livestock shows or auctions with the opportunity for on-site discussion.
- C** Initiative for Cooperation of Laboratories - working group of member organizations AHI, TGD Bayern, GDS France.



## OUR MEMBERS

(National or regional) organizations of livestock farmers and other professions of the animal health sector, which support and represent our goals, values and activities in their country or region.

**On 20 March 2015 FESASS counted on the following members:**

- Belgium (Animal Health Service in Flanders and Wallonia, dgz and arsia)
- France (Federation of Animal Health Services, GDS France)
- Germany (German Animal Breeders' Federation, ADT)
- Italy (Breeders' organization, AIA)
- Luxembourg (Breeders' organization, Convis)
- The Netherlands (Gezondheidsdienst voor dieren, GD)
- Portugal (Regional Animal Health Services ADS Alentejo and UCADESA)
- Spain (Pig Breeders' Association ANPROGAPOR)
- Ireland (Animal Health Ireland, AHI)

