

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002101/24
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: The future of the pig meat sector

At the latest meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture held in Budapest on 9 September, the Member States and the Commission recognised that animal diseases and sanitary restrictions weigh heavily on the European pig meat and poultry meat sectors.

The Commission presented an overview of the situation facing the pig meat sector. The picture painted clearly shows that sanitary restrictions and African swine fever are affecting the sector.

Although the EU is the second biggest producer of pig meat globally, in reality the bulk of this (86%) is produced by just eight Member States. Likewise, pig meat production in the EU has been falling in recent years and is estimated to drop by 0.9% each year until 2030, even though the decrease seen between 2022 and 2023 was much sharper, at 6%.

1. Bearing in mind that the pig meat sector is not eligible for coupled support under the common agricultural policy, what is the Commission's plan for halting the decline in production in the long term?
2. What European investments are being made in research and innovation in the pig meat sector, in particular for the development of new production technologies and vaccines?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2024)**

The Commission is closely monitoring market developments in the pig sector. Pig production is subject to supply and demand dynamics, with a period of high export demand driving temporary expansion, followed by a decline over the past two years and current stabilisation. With its relative short production cycle, the sector can adjust rather quickly to demand fluctuations.

While coupled support is not available under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), rural development interventions within CAP Strategic Plans offer significant support to pig farmers, focusing on enhancing sustainability, resilience, and competitiveness.

The Commission has been funding research and innovation in the different domains of the pigmeat sector through successive Framework Programmes.

Examples from Horizon 2020 ⁽¹⁾ and Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾ addressing pigs only, or among other livestock, include genomics and breeding ⁽³⁾; feed and nutrition ⁽⁴⁾; microbiome ⁽⁵⁾; innovative manure management and energy ⁽⁶⁾; pig production systems and pig welfare ⁽⁷⁾; antimicrobial resistance ⁽⁸⁾.

There are not only collaborative projects, but also infrastructures ⁽⁹⁾, or thematic networks ⁽¹⁰⁾. As regards animal health, on vaccine development specifically against African swine fever alone, there are three ongoing projects ⁽¹¹⁾ for a total of EUR 20 million.

⁽¹⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en

⁽²⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁽³⁾ GENE-SWitCH (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/817998>); GEroNIMO (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000236>).

⁽⁴⁾ Feed-a-Gene (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/633531>).

⁽⁵⁾ 3D-Omics (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000309>).

⁽⁶⁾ Fertimanure (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862849>); RES4LIVE (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000785>).

⁽⁷⁾ SusAn (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101059609>); ERA-NET (<https://era-susan.eu/>); Pathways (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000395>); Re-Livestock (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000344>); MEATQUALITY (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000344>); ClearFarm (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862919>); aWISH (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101060818>); PPILOW (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/816172>).

⁽⁸⁾ HealthyLivestock (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/773436>); DISARM (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/817591>); ROADMAP (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/817626>); AVANT (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862829>); NeoGiANT (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101036768>).

⁽⁹⁾ PIGWEB (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101004770>).

⁽¹⁰⁾ EU Pig Innovation Group (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/727933>).

⁽¹¹⁾ VACDIVA (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862874>); ASFaVIP (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136676>); VAX4ASF (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136439>).

In addition to several other projects addressing pig health, the co-funded European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare ⁽¹²⁾ provides important resources to strengthen research and innovation in the domain, not least on technological and social innovation.

⁽¹²⁾ EUPAHW (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136346>).