



# RULES OF PROCEDURE

## INTRODUCTION

According to Article 35 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>, "Individual Members may form intergroups for the purpose of holding informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and of promoting contact between Members and civil society."

Following the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, Members of the Sustainable Livestock Intergroup have adopted and commit to comply with the following rules of procedure.

## 1. DEFINITION

- I. The Sustainable Livestock Intergroup is a European Parliament cross-party group offering a platform to promote a balanced dialogue on topics related to the animal value chain. It is not an official body of the European Parliament.
- II. The Intergroup provides background information and updates on current issues related to animal farming with the objective of proposing and/or agreeing on initiatives that can contribute to improvements or concrete changes for sustainable livestock farming.
- III. The aim of the Sustainable Livestock intergroup is to provide a forum for debate and exchange, always based on scientific evidence.
- IV. The Intergroup organises sessions in Brussels. For the monthly meetings, experts, stakeholders, rapporteurs and representatives of the European Commission and Member States are invited to exchange views on issues related to the animal value chain. Where possible, these sessions should allow speakers with different backgrounds and knowledge to present their points of view, facts and figures. According to the outcome of the discussions, follow-up actions can be agreed upon, which are then coordinated by the Bureau of the Intergroup.

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<sup>1</sup> [Rules20240716\\_EN.pdf](#)

## **2. ORGANISATION**

The following entities will participate in the Intergroup

- The Bureau
- The General Secretariat
- The Stakeholders Committee
- The Advisory Group
- The Civil Society Committee
- The Members

## **3. THE BUREAU**

- 1) For the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Term (2024-2029), the Bureau is composed of the three co-chairs: Alexander Bernhuber from EPP, Maria Grapini from S&D, and Benoît Cassart from Renew Europe.
- 2) Should one co-chair decide to leave the Bureau, he/she can propose a substitute. Should agreeing on a replacement be impossible, the seat should remain vacant for the rest of the Parliamentary Term.
- 3) The Bureau members can:
  - i. Provide direct input into the shaping and running of the Intergroup's sessions and activities,
  - ii. Propose topics for debate for the monthly Intergroup sessions, taking into account the list of agendas proposed by the Secretariat, the Stakeholders Committee and the Advisory Group and the topics of political relevance for the European Institutions,
- 4) The Bureau members should:
  - i. Commit to promoting balanced dialogue on issues related to the animal value chain,
  - ii. Participate proactively in monthly Intergroup sessions and various Intergroup initiatives, including chairing the Intergroup sessions and events,
  - iii. Promote and lead the initiatives of the Intergroup and sign its correspondence,
  - iv. Provide organisational support to the Secretariat.
- 5) The Bureau meets with the Stakeholders Committee at least twice a year to discuss the planning of Intergroup sessions and activities for a fixed time period.

## **4. THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

The General Secretariat is responsible for administrative, organisational and advisory tasks. These include:

- 1) Organisation of the monthly Intergroup sessions or any other events,
- 2) Inviting guest speakers for Intergroup sessions or other events,
- 3) Preparation and distribution of the Intergroup session agendas following the input of the Bureau (see points 3.2 ) in accordance with the rules of procedures of the European Parliament,
- 4) Coordination of follow-up actions agreed during Intergroup sessions,
- 5) Assisting the co-Chairs with correspondence and any additional specific requests related to the activities of the Intergroup,
- 6) Regular updating of the Intergroup website, social media and all communication-related tasks such as taking minutes of the Intergroup meetings,
- 7) Fulfilment of administrative tasks for the EP secretariat, such as financial declarations,
- 8) Coordination of the Stakeholders Committee and the Advisory Group,
- 9) Organisation and preparation of meetings between the Bureau and the Stakeholders Committee.

The General Secretariat of the intergroup is composed of a core group of representatives from European Livestock Voice and one representative from each Co-Chair. European Livestock Voice members who are part of the secretariat, must all be registered in the EP transparency register.

## **5. THE STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE**

The Stakeholders Committee is made up of partner organisations of European Livestock Voice. All members must be registered in the EP transparency register.

The Stakeholders Committee provides strategic input to the Intergroup. It suggests activities and advises on relevant topics for the Intergroup sessions and activities.

The secretariat meets the Stakeholders Committee once a month to co-design the Intergroup sessions and activities.

## **6. THE ADVISORY GROUP**

The Advisory Group is formed of individual scientists. The list of members of the Advisory Group is public and available on the website.

Members of the Advisory Group must be willing to actively support and promote a balanced dialogue on issues related to the animal value chain. Members of the Advisory Group are selected by the Bureau and the Stakeholders Committee.

The advisory group will be consulted before relevant sessions are organised. Its role is to help to better define the topic, advise on the most appropriate speakers and draw attention to the most relevant scientific studies.

## **7. THE CIVIL SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

In order to include all players from the farming sector and NGOs in our discussions in a very collaborative approach, the civil society committee is made up of all European Livestock Voice members as well as think tanks, confederations and NGOs, etc.

All the members must also be registered in the EP transparency register.

The civil society committee will be contacted on an ad hoc basis, when requested and when it fits the session's agenda and will be invited to participate in events but it does not take part in decision-making.

## **8. INTERGROUP MEMBERS**

- 1) Intergroups are formed of Members of the European Parliament from any political group and any committee, with a view to holding informal exchanges of views on specific subjects and promoting contact between Members and civil society. Intergroups are not Parliament bodies and may not express the Parliament's opinion.
- 2) Members of the Sustainable Livestock Intergroup are registered on an official list available on the Intergroup's website. When registering, MEPs have to declare that they have noted the European Parliament's rules governing the establishment of Intergroups and of the rules of procedures of the Sustainable Livestock Intergroup and undertake to abide by them. Any changes to the member list must be notified by the Secretariat to the EP Secretariat in charge of Intergroups.
- 3) MEPs who want to join the Sustainable Livestock Intergroup must be willing to actively support and promote a balanced dialogue on issues related to the animal value chain.
- 4) Intergroup Members are welcome to follow the monthly sessions and engage in Intergroup activities as often as possible.