



# 9/Evolution of the food sector

## Our proposal

### Ensure a successful transition to sustainable agriculture

Halve food wastage.

For the livestock sector, favour quality over quantity, via policies governing labelling and protected origin status for animals, and adaptation of livestock farmer remuneration methods.



## The stakes for the climate

The implementation of these measures should make it possible to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture by around **135 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent** by 2050, i.e. **nearly 5% of the total emission reductions required to meet our "carbon budget"\* responsibilities.**

## Other reasons to adopt this solution

### Job creation

Any jobs that may be lost in sectors such as animal product processing and retail could be more than offset by new opportunities in agriculture and local distribution channels.

### Economic activity

Many livestock farmers could benefit from the transition from quantity towards to quality, provided the transition is founded on a voluntary approach and supported by subsidies maintaining income levels. Falling production in the livestock sector may be detrimental to the food-processing industry if it fails to adapt its supply policies accordingly.

### Environment, health & well-being

The implementation of these measures would free up **20 million hectares of land for uses other than animal feed** (crops for human food or energy production). It would also lead to an improvement in health, water and land quality and would help create an agricultural system that is more resilient to climate change.

An increase in the price of intensively-farmed animal products could be perceived as a drop in purchasing power. But many people believe it is right - particularly the younger generation - that the environmental cost of this intensive production should be borne by those who consume the products, and not by society as a whole.

\* Our "carbon budget": target greenhouse gas emission ceiling for 2050, corresponding to a four-fold reduction in European Union Member State emissions compared to 1990 levels.

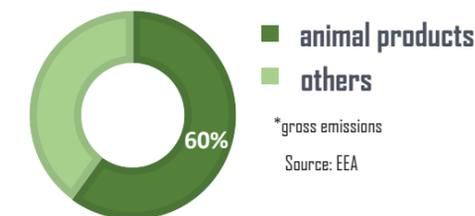
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### Why ?

**Food** is responsible for **30%** of the European Union's emissions, with **agriculture** accounting for **12%** of emissions.

**75%** of gross emissions from agriculture as a whole are generated by the **livestock sector**.

GHG emissions from agriculture EU-28 (2012)



Moreover, around **20%** of food supplied across Europe is **wasted**.

### How ?

- **Create a "High Environmental Quality" label for livestock**
- **The remuneration of livestock farmers and cooperatives** adopting such a label (via the Common Agricultural Policy) would be a beneficial alternative to current subsidy-based approaches
- Harmonize methodologies concerning the evaluation of losses and waste, and improve the reliability of such data
- Standardize best-before/use-by dates on food products, making the information clear for consumers
- Run awareness-raising campaigns aimed at the public concerning food waste

### How much does it cost?

No additional investment is required. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP, which accounts for almost 40% of the EU budget) **already has an adequate budget** to support the measure. But it must be redistributed accordingly.

### Who pays ?

Member States, via the CAP. Consumers, by accepting higher prices (but this increase will be offset by the fact that people consume and waste less).