

CLITRAVI

*CENTRE DE LIAISON DES
INDUSTRIES TRANSFORMATRICES DE VIANDES DE L'U.E.
LIAISON CENTRE FOR THE
MEAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE E.U.*

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CLITRAVI statement on the report of the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health.

On the occasion of the release of the Eat-Lancet Commission's report on "Food in the Anthropocene", the European meat processing industry recognizes healthy diet and sustainable food system as priorities for the livestock sector.

Notwithstanding the fact that the report recognizes the importance to focus on the whole diet rather than on a single foodstuff, the conclusion conflicts with the purpose of the Eat-Lancet Commission as the report collects and proposes again some arguments contained in previous anti-livestock studies, also co-signed by some members of the Eat-Lancet Commission.

While consumption of meat is required as part of a balanced diet and fully recognized by science and national dietary guidelines, we think that the debate should not lead to a negative categorization of meat products and consequently to dietary bans against those foodstuffs.

The conclusions of the Eat-Lancet report on the health impact of processed meat products are based once more on inadequate evidence as well as on the extrapolation of data to causal interpretations, without

taking into account that obesity and non-communicable diseases are multifactorial matters.

The European meat processing industry underlines the role of education as the most important priority to promote a lifestyle based on healthy diet and sustainable choices.

On the impact of meat on the planetary boundaries for greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen and phosphorus, water, land use and biodiversity, while that is true for certain livestock systems, as well as for certain crops, of which some are particularly devastating, distorting the data for ideological purposes is incoherent and socially irresponsible.

The conclusions of the Eat-Lancet report on the environmental issue depict the livestock sector as the main cause for climate deterioration without taking into account several more impacting sectors and by ignoring, for example, that a single return flight from Rome to Brussels generates much higher emissions than the individual annual consumption of meat and cold cuts.

The European meat processing industry believes that preserving good animal health and welfare conditions, protecting biodiversity, preventing climate change and ensuring a competitive livestock sector is of interest to society as a whole and that those goals should be better achieved by promoting and encouraging best practices and shifting the attention to the lifestyle.

Maintaining a balanced diet and regular exercise is important for all individuals and can make the difference. But, once more, education and

scientific based campaigns can help people moving towards sustainable and balanced diets.

We hope that the Eat-Lancet Commission will take into account our suggestions and will better define the conclusions of the report by considering also the contributions already in place to lower any negative impact of the livestock and that meat processing companies are increasing their investments in innovation and in best available technologies with the aim to provide safe and sustainable food products.