

## **Report of the meeting to encounter the Polish stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform**

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The meeting to encounter the Polish stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform was held in Warsaw on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The venue was the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr Wojciech Wojtyra representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Warsaw, was chairing the meeting.

Representatives of the major animal industries and breeders organizations, of all the Animal Science Institutes of the Polish universities and of public institutions, as the Ministry of Agriculture were invited to attend the meeting. There were 38 people attending the meeting.

After a short presentation to explain the role and the functioning of the technology platforms in the EU policy, it was fully presented the FABRE TP. The presentation was directed to explain the reason of the creation of the platform and then the activities so far. Finally it has been described the first draft of the Strategic Research Agenda. The people attending the meeting were then stimulated to express their view on the FABRE technology platform in general and more specifically the comments, advises and criticisms about the first draft of the Strategic Research Agenda.

During the meeting, the importance of the mirror group role was explained.

After collecting the comments, the list was sent back to those who attended the meeting for possible corrections and additions. The final list is then detailed:

1. The horse industry is not properly represented in the Strategic Research Agenda of the Technology Platform. The Polish animal science and industry representatives believes that for the Polish livestock system, the horse industry must have a prominent role
2. The audience also explained the risk for the participants of the Steering Group and Working Group to initiate lobby activities. The routine replacements of the members of those key groups, as stated in the Technology Platforms policy suggested by the European Community
3. The beef cattle industry and related researchers must have more space in the Strategic Research Agenda of the Technology Platform. The importance of this field of livestock industry should be highlighted
4. The quality of meat produced by beef cattle must also be considered as future selection objective
5. The Polish audience also suggest to increase the contacts with the Technology Platform about to coordinate the production of food of animal origin with the food industry
6. More studies about the genetically modified organisms are requested. Although the relative activity is not permitted in Poland, the research is certainly important for keeping the European scientists updated with this technology that has global interest
7. Much more emphasis should be given to research on animal nutrition especially in the field of biology of rumen micro-organisms
8. The physiology of nutrition should be studied when defining the selection objectives to improve the efficiency of livestock animals
9. Considering that the quality of meat is also based on animal nutrition, whenever studying the possibility of selecting for quality, the different level of quality and quantity of animal nutrition must be investigated

10. The Polish audience complain of the low participation of scientists and animal industry representatives from Poland in the many working groups of the Technology Platform. One of the explanation given was that, together with the new 10 countries, now 12, the Polish scientists do not have too much experience in the European Community Framework Program.
11. All participants are suggesting to give more prioritization, for there is the possibility that the large number of items in the Strategic Research Agenda might diminish the efficiency of the research strategy
12. The aspects of welfare should be tackled for all species
13. The Polish audience strongly criticizes the scarce representation of livestock systems among all the EU countries. There are not representatives of Southern and East Europe. For the main working group the poor representation is quite the same.
14. The research on animal breeding should also consider the quality of products of animal origin. It was noted that too much emphasis has been given to quantity level of production. Also great importance is given to the production of healthy food.
15. More emphasis on the training activities and dissemination was not properly considered in the Strategic Research Agenda of the Technology Platform. It is common understanding that training and dissemination activities are essential to achieve the objectives of maintaining the world leadership of European expertise in animal breeding and reproduction technology