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PRESS RELEASE

The European Poultry sector is raising its voice to Europe



From left: President of AVEC Gert-Jan Oplaat, Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski & Magnus Swalander, President of EPB

AVEC, The Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU countries, met for the 65th AVEC General Assembly in Gdansk, Poland on 8th September. The event, this year organised by the National Poultry Council Chamber of Commerce, was attended by more than 150 people from the European poultry sector ahead of a crucial period for the sector with the upcoming legislative proposal for animal welfare and 2024 European Elections.

This central theme to this year's summit was how the poultry sector can better engage with the public and policy makers and reconnect with EU citizens on animal welfare. The need to better communicate and promote the work of the European poultry meat sector was the clear conclusion of the summit.

AVEC encouraged all members to continue communicating fact-based information on digital platforms and through events and conferences to ensure that the poultry industry voice continues to be heard.

Janusz Wojciechowski, The European Commissioner for Agriculture was invited to give an update from the European Commission and most importantly listen to the concerns the European poultry sector is facing. The upcoming legislative proposal on animal welfare, the declining competitiveness of the European poultry sector due to the rising feed and energy prices and the unlimited imports of poultry meat from Ukraine putting pressure on the rest of the European Poultry sector were amongst the key topics discussed. The participants, reminded Commissioner Wojciechowski that it is not fair nor healthy for the sector to take such large share of the collective burden, whilst underlining their continued support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

"We should listen to the European poultry meat sector and the voice of AVEC. The voice of a very important sector that is crucial for our food system. We must take into account the concerns that have been expressed during the General Assembly in Gdansk in future debates", stated Janusz Wojciechowski.

Furthermore, the Annual Report 2023 was published providing insights on AVEC's priorities.

"Despite the dark clouds in the sky, the poultry sector is a high-performing, progressive and sustainable sector which contributes significantly to a balanced and healthy diet for both Europe and the rest of the world. Let's continue being role models and promote sustainable, healthy and affordable food. We are part of the solution", concluded Birthe Steenberg.

AVEC's exchanges with international organisations and decision-makers will make a difference.

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Read more about AVEC at: [avec-poultry.eu](https://www.avec-poultry.eu)
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