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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VICE-PRESIDENT

## JOINT STATEMENT

by Sir Paul McCartney, founder of Meat-Free Monday; Dr Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Issued after the Hearing on December 3 2009 at the European Parliament, Brussels on

### **'Global Warming and Food Policy: Less Meat = Less Heat'**

Sir Paul McCartney and Dr Rajendra Pachauri spoke at the European Parliament's Brussels hearing on Global Warming and Food Policy on December 3, the week before the Copenhagen summit, to launch their key message Less Meat = Less Heat. The Hearing was organised by the Bureau of the European Parliament and chaired by Edward McMillan-Scott. The three men do not eat meat. Here are some of the reasons:

In 2006, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) issued its 400-page ground-breaking report *Livestock's Long Shadow*<sup>1</sup>. It said: "Globally [the livestock sector] is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases and one of the leading causal factors in the loss of biodiversity, while in developed and emerging countries it is perhaps the leading source of water pollution."

The report states that livestock production produces more greenhouse gases – 18 per cent – than the whole transport sector – 13 per cent. Some gases from meat production are far more dangerous than those produced by transport. Nitrous oxide has 296 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of CO<sub>2</sub>. Most of this comes from manure and the production of nitrate fertilisers.

Meat takes upwards of 16 times more energy and resources than its vegetable equivalent: this includes massively more water, at a time when 64 per cent of the world's population face water 'stress' or drought. At present rates, meat production will double worldwide to 465M tonnes by 2050. It already uses 70 per cent of all agricultural land and causes massive deforestation to create land for growing feedstuff.

In terms of environmental and health factors, reliable statistics show that livestock in the USA causes 55 per cent of erosion and is responsible for 37 per cent use of pesticides and 50 per cent use of antibiotics.

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<sup>1</sup> <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a0701e/a0701e00.pdf>

According to the Compassion in World Farming and Friends of the Earth report *Eating the Planet*<sup>2</sup> the human dimension cannot be ignored. One billion of the world's population are obese – and one billion suffer food scarcity or are starving.

As recent epidemics have highlighted, 60 per cent of human pathogens come from animals or poultry.<sup>3</sup>

The better news is that a modest change to our eating habits can have a major effect on the rate of climate change. Even better is that vegetarians have 28 per cent less heart disease, 39 per cent lower cancer mortality and suffer 50 per cent less diabetes.<sup>4</sup>

**We are grateful to the European Parliament for holding this Hearing. We note that, with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on December 1, it gained joint responsibility with EU governments over 'promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change'. We urge MEPs to respond to the expert opinions expressed here and encourage them to show a lead by consuming less meat.**

**We call on those governments, and all represented at COP15 and in subsequent discussions, to adjust their agriculture, development, environment and public health policies to reflect the role of livestock production in climate change:**

**We call on the local authorities and municipalities in Europe and worldwide to adopt the principle of a meat-free day for their employees.**

**We call on people worldwide, but especially in the developed nations to change their diet to one meat-free day as the most effective way to combat global warming.**

**Sir Paul McCartney** is a well known musician and founder of *Meat Free Monday*, a campaign that raises awareness of the greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production and calls upon people to help fight climate change by going meat-free one day a week.

**Edward McMillan-Scott** was first elected Vice-President of the European Parliament in 2004. His portfolio includes Human Rights and Democracy. First elected a Conservative MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber in 1984, following a dispute with the Conservative Party about its partners in the European Parliament he currently sits as an independent.

**Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri** is Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Director-General of the Indian Energy and Resources Institute, and Director of the Yale Energy and Climate Institute. He has been personally involved in promoting change in diets as one of the most effective ways to tackle the most pressing environmental issues.

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[http://www.ciwf.org.uk/includes/documents/cm\\_docs/2009/e/eating\\_the\\_planet\\_press\\_briefing\\_nov\\_2009.pdf](http://www.ciwf.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/e/eating_the_planet_press_briefing_nov_2009.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)

<sup>4</sup> A 12-year follow-up study of 6,115 British vegetarians and 5,015 meat-eaters (Thorogood, 1994). <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/308/6945/1667>