

News from EAAP

Hamburg 2026: A Resounding Success

The 77th EAAP Annual Meeting in Hamburg has just drawn to a close, and the whole EAAP family (the President, the Council, the Secretariat and everyone who is part of the EAAP world) could not be more pleased. By every measure, it was a complete and unqualified success. The numbers speak for themselves: around 1,700 participants, nearly one thousand high-quality scientific presentations and more than 400 posters. The organisation was equally impeccable in every respect: a splendid and highly functional conference centre, sessions that ran precisely on schedule, smoothly organised lunches and coffee breaks, and social events that offered ample opportunities for networking. The visit of EU Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi confirmed once again the importance of our Annual Meeting within the European scientific community and among policy makers. Industry was also strongly represented, with companies from across the animal farming and livestock production sector taking an active part, thanks in part to the strengthened services and activities of the EAAP Industry Club. For the scientific programme, our sincere thanks go to the Scientific Committee and to all the speakers. For the organisation, we are deeply grateful to our hosts: the German team's organisational skills were simply invaluable, and their courtesy and warmth were evident on every occasion. Another highlight was the strong presence of young people, with one third of participants under 38. This is the fruit of EAAP's deliberate strategy to attract young scientists, and with them the future, to our Annual Meeting. All that remains is to invite everyone to our 78th Annual Meeting next year in green Ireland. Auf Wiedersehen! And see you in Dublin!



Commissioner Várhelyi at the 77th EAAP Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual Meeting of EAAP held from 7th to 11th September in Hamburg, received a visit from Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, who met a delegation of participants to outline the main actions the Commission is pursuing within his remit. At the core of his address was the fight against zoonoses, an area where animal health and public health are ever more closely intertwined and which calls for prevention, surveillance and a coordinated response capacity at European level. The Commissioner then turned to the legislative initiatives aimed at improving animal welfare, stressing the need to reconcile higher standards with the competitiveness of European production, in markets where EU farmers compete every day with producers subject to different rules. It was precisely on this balance that EAAP President Joël Bérard intervened, drawing the Commissioner's attention to the importance of supporting research in animal science. Without sustained investment in scientific knowledge, he observed, the entire sector would be inexorably weakened. It is research, after all, that provides the tools to make the objectives of European policy compatible with one another: livestock farming that is more attentive to animal welfare, more resilient in terms of animal health, and at the same time economically sustainable. Ambitious rules, without the knowledge and innovation needed to implement them, risk translating into nothing more than additional costs for farmers. The meeting confirmed the role of the EAAP Annual Meeting



as a forum for dialogue between the scientific community and the European institutions, as well as the Federation's readiness to place the expertise of its researchers at the service of evidence-based policies, capable of guiding European livestock farming towards higher standards without undermining its viability.



From left to right: Olivér Várhelyi (European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare) and Joël Bérard (EAAP President)

EAAP Books of Abstracts on Zenodo platform

A dedicated EAAP Book of Abstracts community was created on Zenodo, an Open Access online repository for research publications and outputs, to collect the Books of Abstracts from EAAP Annual Meetings and make them permanently available online. The aim was to create a permanent and easily accessible archive of the scientific contributions presented at EAAP Annual Meetings over the years. All Books of Abstracts available in electronic format, starting from the 60th EAAP Annual Meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 24–27 August 2009), were collected and uploaded to the community. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) was assigned to each publication through Zenodo. This provides each Book of Abstracts with a permanent reference and makes individual volumes easier to identify, retrieve and cite. The use of Zenodo also ensures that the publications remain freely available in Open Access and can be accessed independently from the EAAP website. The EAAP Book of Abstracts community therefore provides a single archive for past conference publications, improving their accessibility and long-term availability. The same system will also be used for future EAAP Annual Meetings, with new Books of Abstracts added to the community as they are published.

EAAP People Portrait

Amélia Camarinha Silva



Amélia Camarinha Silva is Professor of Livestock Microbial Ecology at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany. She conducts her research within the Hohenheim Centre for Livestock Microbiome Research (HoLMiR), where her work focuses on how the gut microbiome shapes health, nutrient utilization, and disease resilience in poultry and other livestock. Her research combines microbiome profiling with nutrition and genetics to support sustainable animal production. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) and Vice-President of the EAAP Poultry Commission. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

Science and Innovation

A genome-wide association study based on plasma high-throughput untargeted metabolomic profiles expands the number of genetically influenced metabolites in pigs

This study investigates the genetic basis of the plasma metabolome in pigs to aid precision livestock breeding. Researchers analyzed 268 Italian Duroc pigs using untargeted metabolomics (identifying 580 metabolites) and genome-wide association studies with approximately 60,000 SNPs. They discovered that the plasma metabolome has moderate heritability, with nearly half of the metabolites showing a heritability score above 0.20. The analysis identified 89 metabolite quantitative trait loci (mQTL) regions linked to 156 metabolites and