



Climate Change – Livestock Farming – Animal Ethics: the (missing) voice of the Church

Leadership: [Martin M. Lintner](#); a Co-Chair is welcome, he or she may be recruited from among the interested parties.

Languages of virtual table: Main language: English; using existing technologies (such as Google Translate) and with mutual attentiveness and help to break the language barrier also other languages (German, French, Spanish, Portuguese etc.) are welcome

Purpose: The aim of the VT is to obtain an overview of the most pressing problems in relation to the issue of the VT and, in particular, to examine in which regions the Church expresses herself on the problem and makes a contribution to the solution of the problems. Mass livestock farming contributes to a high percentage (up to 25% and more) of global climate change. Particularly through the cultivation and intercontinental transport of feed, but also through the global opening of the meat market, the ethical problem of animal husbandry affects the different continents in their interrelatedness. Does the Church's teaching on Care for creation and on animal ethics (cf. *Laudato si'*) have any influence? Are there voices of Bishops or other ecclesiastical institutions going beyond the teaching of the Roman magisterium?

The VT's specific purpose is firstly an exchange of information and secondly the promotion of the sensitivity for the role of the Church in the specific issue of livestock farming in the broader field of climate change. A publication of a smaller book could be the result.

Reporting methodology: As a methodology, the group will meet for a first meeting via Skype. The main work, however, should consist of written work. The chairperson/co-chairs will develop and propose a number of questions which will be used to illuminate the topic in the individual regions. These questions will be refined and elaborated together. These questions provide a kind of basic framework for dealing with the topic. In particular, the worldwide connections of the topic should be emphasized and the question of whether or how the Church speaks and commits itself concretely. Reports from the different regions might be shared in the First.

Call for members: I invite interested people from all regions. My idea is to form a group of about 10 to 15 people at the end, with 2-3 people each from Europe, North and Central/South America, South America, Africa and Asia. Colleagues who have already dealt with the topic of climate change, livestock farming and animal ethics are preferred.

Duration and meeting frequency: The Virtual Table will be established for no more than 12 months at a time. It should start in April 2020 with the first Skype meeting. During this

meeting the frequency of the next skype meetings should be clarified, but the main work will be done in written form, working on common documents shared e.g. via Dropbox.