

# Opslag om deltagelse ved ESPHM symposium



Vivi Aarestrup Moustsen ✓ • 1.

Chief Scientist, MSc Agric, PhD, SEGES Innovation P/S, Honorary associate pro...  
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The last days, I've had the great pleasure of attending the [ESPHM 2026](#) symposium in the beautiful city of [#Bern](#) in [#Switzerland](#) together with my good colleagues from [SEGES Innovation Elisabeth Okholm Nielsen Margit Andreasen](#) and [Mette Fertner](#) – and 1,024 others representing 49 countries.

The theme for the symposium this year was the "The Five Freedoms" with keynote speakers initiating each day with insightful presentations regarding

- 👉 Freedom from discomfort
- 👉 Freedom from hunger and thirst
- 👉 Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- 👉 Freedom to express normal behaviour
- 👉 Freedom from fear and distress

I was very honoured to be invited as keynote speaker on the subject of "Freedom from hunger and thirst" – focusing on the pigs' need for water and the benefits for sow and piglet welfare, health and productivity when water is available in abundance and of high quality.

The last keynotes at the Symposium focused on "Freedom from fear and distress" where important take home messages from Prof. Xavier Manteca, [Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona](#) was that behaviour is closely linked to health and performance and that good human-animal relationships in the early post-natal life can have long lasting effects on pig welfare 🐷

Professor Peter Kunstmann, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover followed Prof. Manteca and discussed that being free of suffering (Freedom #1, 2, 3 and 5) is not enough, and that with good stockmanship taking the fourth freedom seriously, we can make a difference for pig by giving the pigs freedom to express natural behaviours 🐷

Both the aspect of Prof. Manteca and of Prof. Kunstmann are cornerstones in development of housing systems for [#LooseLactatingSows](#) and I very much look forward to continue collaboration and exchange of ideas how to improve pig welfare 🐷 and at the same time ensure pig performance, low environmental impact and sustainable economy for European pig producers.

Se opslaget via dette link:  
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4 kommentarer

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