



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture



German Presidency priorities regarding animal welfare

Animal welfare matters!

- In many Member States animal welfare has become an issue of growing importance, in some Member States it is even part of the Constitution.
- According to Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.
- The German Presidency focusses in particular on the creation of an EU animal welfare label and animal welfare during transport.

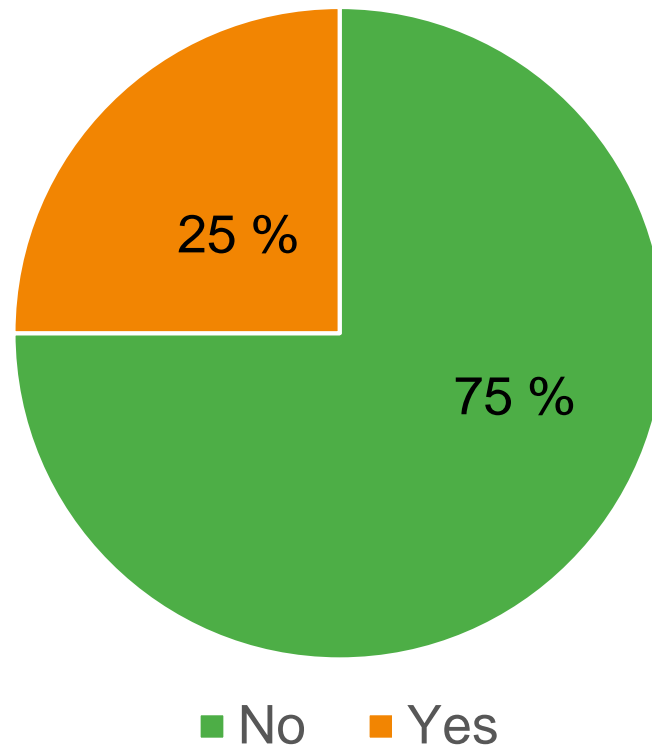
EU animal welfare label: Questionnaire to Member States

- On 21 July 2020, the Presidency provided the Member States with a questionnaire on the possible introduction of an EU-wide animal welfare label. The questionnaire comprised 17 questions. In total, 25 Member States replied.
- 92 % of Member States consider a harmonised EU-wide animal welfare label useful as a measure to improve animal welfare in livestock husbandry.
- Most important animal species to be considered: Pigs, broiler chicken, beef cattle, calves, dairy cows, laying hens.

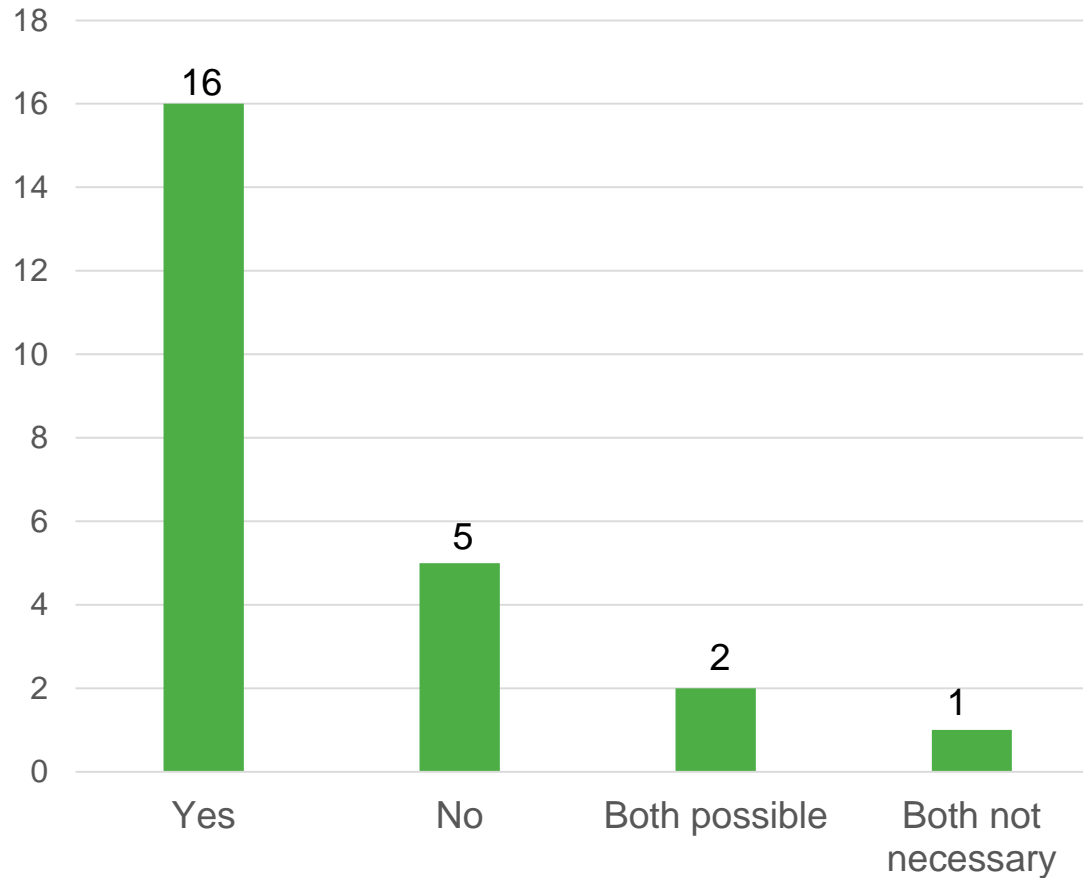
EU animal welfare label: Means of implementation

- 15 out of 25 Member States prefer the implementation of an EU-wide animal welfare label through EU legislation.
- 5 Member States favour dedicated EU guidelines instead.
- 2 Member States regard either option as feasible,
2 Member States see no need for an EU-wide approach,
1 Member State is undecided on the matter.

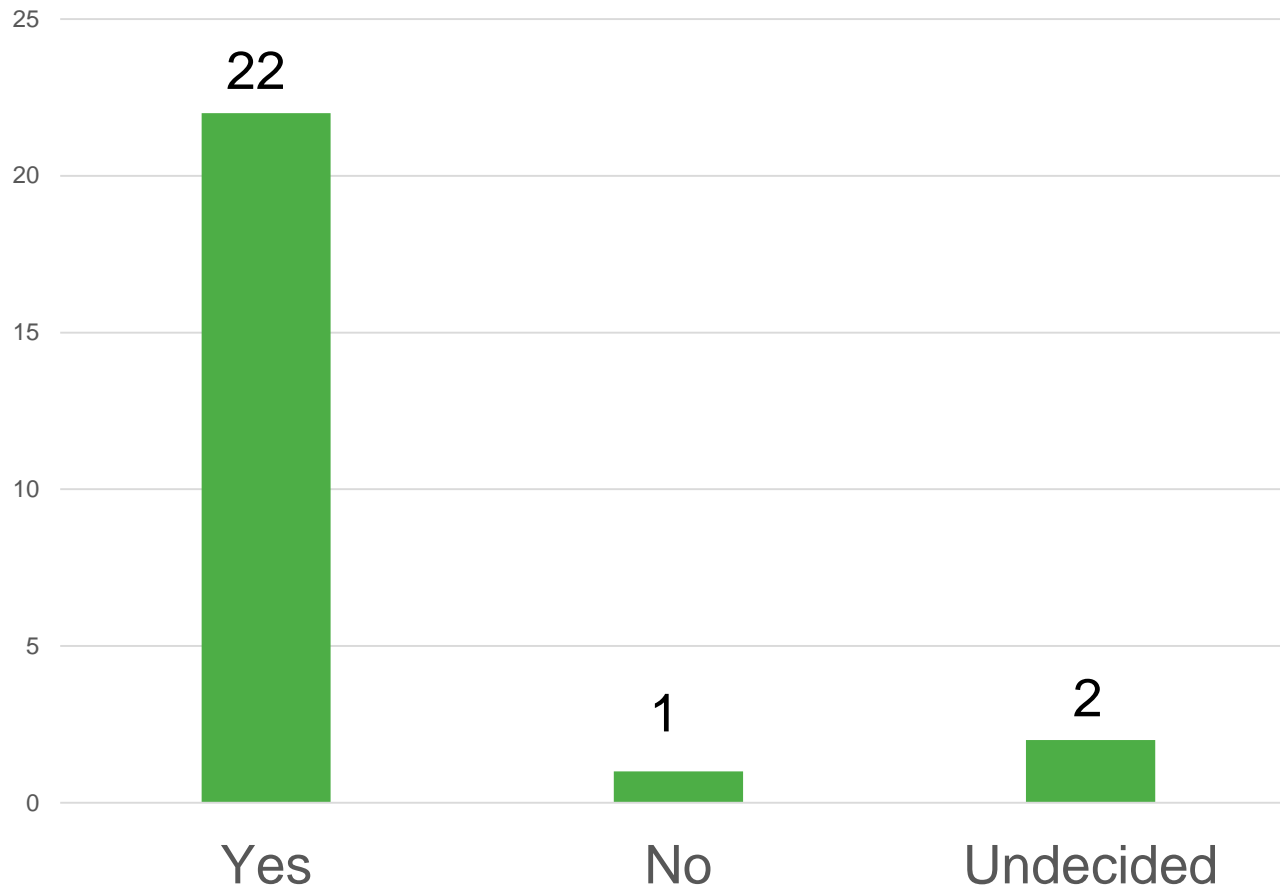
- Should an EU animal welfare labelling scheme be mandatory (such as for eggs) or not?



- Should the requirements for an EU-wide animal welfare label go beyond the minimum legal requirements?



- Should a standard, EU-wide logo be created?



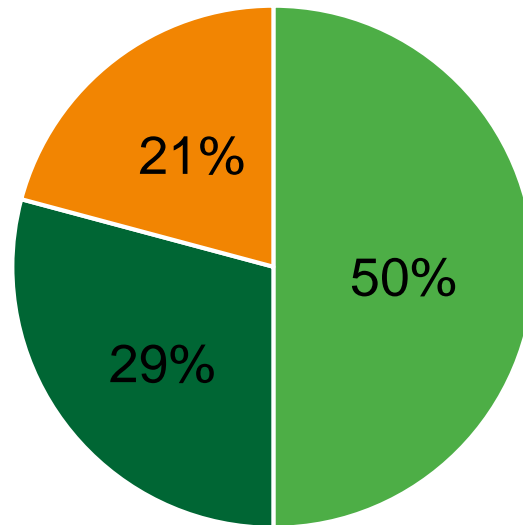
EU animal welfare label: What about aspects other than aw?

- 21 out of 25 replying Member States (84%) state that an EU-wide animal welfare label should only include animal welfare criteria.
- 4 out of 25 (16%) Member States view including information on origin, regionality or other sustainability criteria favourably.
- 1 Member State is undecided on this issue.

EU animal welfare label: What to do with existing label?

- 13 out of 25 (52%) Member States are in favour of allowing other national, regional or private-sector animal welfare label to (continue to) exist alongside an EU-wide animal welfare label.
- 6 Member States (24%) oppose this idea.
- 6 Member States (24%) are undecided on this issue.

- Should specific criteria be drawn up for an EU-wide animal welfare label or should a framework be created at EU level into which existing national animal welfare label can be integrated?



- Specific criteria
- EU-framework for the integration of national animal welfare label
- Undecided

Summary

of the results of the questionnaire to Member States

- A very large majority of Member States consider an EU animal welfare label useful as a tool to improve animal welfare in the EU.
- An EU animal welfare label should have its own logo.
- The majority of Member States is in favour of requirements going beyond the minimum legal requirements. The criteria should focus on animal welfare.
- A majority of Member States consider that other label should exist alongside an EU animal welfare label.
- Only 30 % of Member States favour a mandatory label.

EU animal welfare label: Outlook

- The aim is to adopt Council conclusions on an EU animal welfare label at the December Council meeting.
- We are only at the beginning of a process that can take a long time, a questionnaire can only give first information.
- Continued development and discussion will take place in the newly founded subgroup on animal welfare labelling under the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

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Thank you for your attention!