



Progress Report on Commission Project to reduce tail-docking of pigs

MS' implementation of Council Directives 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC on protection of pigs

Commission's request to Member States to submit Action Plans to improve compliance



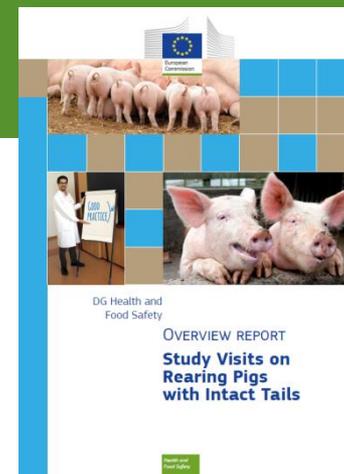
Commission Project to reduce tail-docking of pigs - Objectives

- **Reduce animal suffering by improving the application of Council Directives 2008/120/EC & 98/58/EC over a three year period (17-19)**
- **Specific focus on the avoidance of routine tail docking and the provision of enrichment material**



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STUDY VISITS/ Educational Information

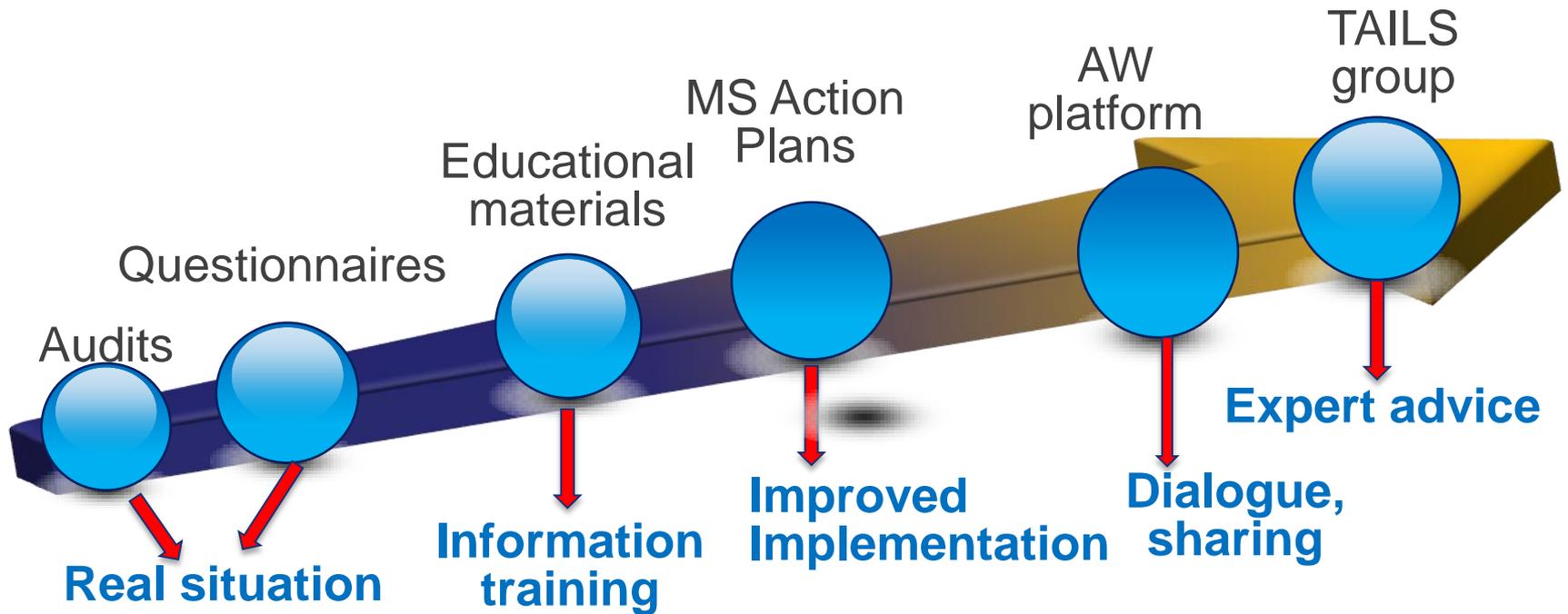


**SUPPORT
NEEDED**



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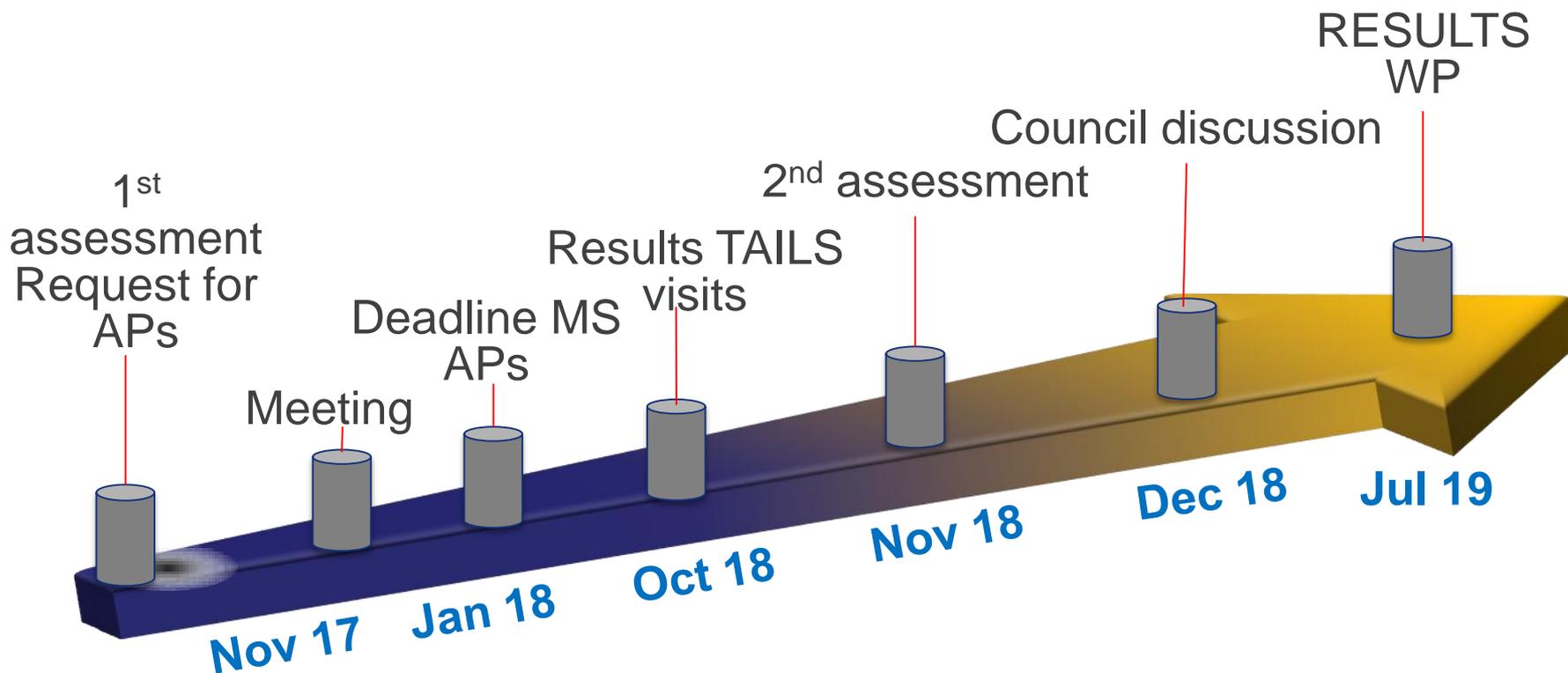
WORK PROGRAMME





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WORK PROGRAMME MILESTONES



Member States' implementation of Council Directives 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC on protection of pigs

COM assessment:

- **2 Questionnaires 2016/2017**
- **4 audits 2017**
- **Results of previous audits**
- **Results of many other studies/reports**

MS progress on avoidance of tail docking

- No progress: 14 MS
- Research and advice to farmers: 8MS
- Procedures for risk assessment: 4 MS
- CA enforcement initiatives: 2 MS
- Tail docking ban: 2 MS



Commission's request to MS to submit Action Plans to improve compliance

DDG Letter Nov 2017, Dir F further information Jan 2018

- 1. Draw up compliance criteria**
- 2. Ensure farm risk assessments are carried out**
- 3. Assess evidence of tail/ear injuries and changes to environmental conditions and management systems including stocking density**
- 4. Reviewing the provision of veterinary statements and quality assurance standards on the need to tail-dock**

What does COM expect MS to do?

1. Draw up compliance criteria

- **Set clear Compliance Criteria for legal requirements of 2008/120/EC and 98/58/EC that are associated with environmental and management factors for tail biting as mentioned in the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336**

What does COM expect MS to do?

2. Ensuring farmer risk assessments are carried out

- **Farmers have primary responsibility in implementing the legal requirements "to take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals under their care" as required by Directive 98/58/EC and the specific requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs.**
- **Risk assessment is a logical intermediate step to be able to effectively evaluate the evidence of tail biting and take meaningful improvement measures in those areas which most likely lead to tail-biting.**

What does COM expect MS to do?

- 3. Assess evidence of tail/ear injuries and changes to environmental conditions and management systems including stocking density**
- **What is sufficient evidence of tail and ear lesions to justify tail-docking and how often should this be assessed and recorded?**
 - **What are sufficient and adequate improvement measures by farmers to change inadequate environmental conditions or managements systems before resorting to tail-docking of pigs, and at what frequency should new/additional measures be undertaken?**

What does COM expect MS to do?

4. **Review the provision of veterinary statements and quality assurance standards on the need to tail-dock**
 - **Veterinary statements, or quality assurance requirements, relating to the need for tail-docking do not always help competent authorities to ensure that the requirements relating to avoidance of routine tail-docking are implemented correctly.**
 - **Consider the use of statements supplied by non-Competent Authority bodies and how these interact and influence their own official controls.**

What does COM expect MS to do?

Provide an Action Plan by Jan 2018 indicating

- **How compliance with Directive will be achieved in 2018**
- **Taking into account Compliance Criteria, Risk Assessment and Farm Improvement Measures**
- **Clear objectives and timelines for implementation**
- **Use the proposed Template where possible**

Sharing best practice

- CIRCABC: [Reducing Tail Biting and Routine Tail Docking of Pigs](#)
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs/tail-docking_en
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare_en
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits_analysis_en
- <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/animalwelfare>
- <http://www.farewelldock.eu/>
- <http://www.grouphousenet.eu/>



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**"THAT SOME
ACHIEVE GREAT
SUCCESS, IS
PROOF TO ALL
THAT OTHERS
CAN ACHIEVE IT
AS WELL"** A. Lincoln

