

# Sub-group on the protection of animals at the time of killing

First meeting, 17/03/2022  
(Videoconference)

## – MINUTES –

### Attendance

<b>Independent expert</b>	Antonio Velarde (excused)
<b>Civil society organisations</b>	Eurogroup for Animals Compassion in World Farming (absent – connection issue)
<b>Business and professional organisations</b>	UECBV FVE European Meat Network
<b>Member States</b>	Denmark Spain Netherlands Sweden Ireland (absent – connection issue)
<b>European Commission</b>	SANTE Unit G5
<b>Guest(s)</b>	ICF (contractor for the impact assessment study)

### Discussions

#### 1. Context, mandate and timeframe by the Commission

In May 2020, in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission decided to revise the animal welfare legislation including on killing. As a follow up, in July 2021, the Commission published an inception impact assessment on the revision of the legislation on animal welfare:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare-\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare-_en)

This document presents options including on the protection of animals at the time of killing and these options will be the base of the work of the subgroup. The main purpose of the subgroup will be to test the relevance of the options and their possible impacts on various aspects.

The legislative proposal is planned to be adopted for the last quarter 2023, and due to procedural constraints the substance of the proposal should be fixed before summer 2023. The subgroup will therefore have around ten meetings to discuss the possible changes of the legislation.

## **2. Roundtable**

Each of present experts introduced themselves to the rest of the group.

## **3. Topics and working method**

The Commission insisted on two basic rules:

- First, the group will work under the Chatham House rule, i.e. participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
- Experts were appointed on a personal basis due to their expertise even if they were proposed by organisations. They are free to express their personal opinion and are not expected to represent their organisation. They are not expressing themselves on behalf of their organisation. Consequently, they have no possibility to be replaced by someone else.

The group will explore of list of topics defined by the inception impact assessment as well as a on the ban of killing of day old chick of laying hens breeds. The Commission presented shortly the list of topics (see annex). The killing of fish will be only treated for the last meeting since the Commission is collecting information on the subject.

Members of the group may bring other options for discussion, keeping in mind that focus should be on provisions that are in the body of the legal text (articles not annexes) or options that have an expected major impact (like banning waterbath stunning). The revision of the legislation is a long process that takes time to develop and implement and only structural changes should be envisaged (i.e. the ones that will last for several years).

The members may also propose guests that could present their views on a particular option since some relevant stakeholders or experts might not be present for some specific issue to be discussed.

## **4. Presentation on the Digital Tool**

The Commission presented the functions of the digital tool to exchange information between the members of the group as well as publish information to the rest of the platform (agora).

## **5. Assignments of tasks**

The next meeting will be dedicated to the pre-approval of restraining and stunning equipment. The Commission will make a presentation of the topic and the group will discuss the possible impacts of different options.

## **6. Calendar for the next meetings**

The dates of the next meeting were temporary agreed for the next: 25 April AM and 1<sup>st</sup> June PM.

## **Annex**

List of topics to be explored

### SUBGROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE TIME OF KILLING

#### Structure of each topic to present the debate

- What is the problem to be addressed by the option?
- What is the content of the options?
- Which alternatives have been implemented?
- What are the possible main impacts?
- How to mitigate negative impacts?
- Other options to address the problem?

#### Options to be discussed

1. Pre-approval for restraining and stunning equipment (EU or national)
2. Electrical prods
3. Simplification of small slaughterhouses
4. Carbon dioxide at high concentration for pigs
5. Waterbath stunning for poultry
6. Farm fish
8. Prohibiting the killing of day old chicks
9. Other options [if any proposed]