



**Ministry of Environment  
and Food of Denmark**  
Danish Veterinary and  
Food Administration

# **Voluntary Initiative on pullets**

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# The voluntary initiative on pullets

## Background

The EU Platform on animal welfare offers a possibility to share information and experiences in voluntary initiative groups and thus help promote animal welfare

Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes apply to pullets.

- The provisions are general and do not address the complex animal welfare challenges, which may arise during the rearing period of pullets, and which may affect their welfare both during rearing and later in the egg-laying period

On this background a discussion paper on best management practice for the welfare of pullets was drawn up and send to the Chairman by Platform members from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, and Denmark



# The voluntary initiative on pullets

## Background

At the meeting of the platform in June 2018 I announced the intention of establishing a voluntary initiative group on pullets

- ✓ Shortly after the Platform meeting the voluntary initiative group on pullets was formed, and the group held its first meeting on 29 October 2018
- ✓ According to the terms of reference the voluntary initiative group shall focus on the establishment of a guide to best animal welfare practice for the keeping of pullets meant for the production of eggs for human consumption
- ✓ Basis for discussions in the group has been the discussion paper
- ✓ The group has held four meetings



# The voluntary initiative pullets

## The members

### Member States:

- ❖ Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden

### Business and professional organisations:

- ❖ Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU, Copa-Cogeca, European Rural Poultry Association, and ISAE

### Civil society organisations:

- ❖ Compassion in World Farming and RSPCA

### International Organisations:

- ❖ OIE



# The voluntary initiative pullets

## The guide - contents

An introductory part with a short description on:

### ❖ Applicable legislation

- ✓ laying hens are covered by Council Directive 1999/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens,
- ✓ only the general provisions of Council Directive 98/58/EC apply to pullets

### ❖ Why should a guide be developed

- ✓ there is a link between the conditions given to pullets in the rearing period and how they cope with the conditions given in the systems where they are kept in the subsequent laying period.
- ✓ Guidelines will therefore not only help improve the welfare of the pullets, but also their welfare when they later in life become laying hens.



# The voluntary initiative pullets

## The guide - contents

After the introductory part follows 9 chapters with recommendations:

1. Training of staff
2. Inspection and stockmanship
3. Choice of rearing system
4. Feeding equipment and feeding
5. Drinking equipment
6. Environment (enrichment, lighting and noise)
7. Stocking density
8. Air quality and thermal environment
9. Beak trimming

And finally an annex with a glossary is planned





Thank you – questions?