



Fitness Check of the EU legislation for the welfare of farmed animals

DG SANTE

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
19 June 2020

Green Deal and Farm to Fork

- The European Green Deal: Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.
- The Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) is at the heart of the Green Deal:

“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”



Animal welfare actions in F2F

- Revision of the animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and the slaughter of animals, to
 - align it with the latest scientific evidence,
 - broaden its scope,
 - make it easier to enforce and
 - ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.
- *Consider options for animal welfare labelling to better transmit value through the food chain.*

”Fitness Check” of current legislation

Issues to be addressed include the following:

- A lack of compliance.
- A lack of tools to properly monitor, measure and report the effects of the legislation.
- A lack of flexibility to adapt to the evolution of science and technological developments.
- A lack of sufficient specific, legal protection of certain animal species.
- A lack of tools and accessible resources for assessing knowledge and for the harmonised training of staff handling animals.

Background of the Fitness Check

- EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015 (to be evaluated by the end of 2020, following a recommendation made by the European Court of Auditors in 2018).
- Council conclusions (2019) on animal welfare as an integral part of sustainable animal production. Commission invited to assess the need for and potential impact of new legislation.
- The European Parliament has also been actively calling for a review of existing legislation and/or an EU framework law on animal welfare.

Purpose of the Fitness Check

- Obtain evidence obtained through stakeholders' consultation, literature research, audit reports, and relevant studies – including the results of the evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy.
- By the end of 2023, review the animal welfare acquis as well as other Commission initiatives in the area.

What further action (legislative and non-legislative) might be necessary to align the EU's animal welfare objectives to the sustainability goals of the Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork Strategy?

Scope of the Fitness Check

- Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming purposes)
- Council Directive 1999/74/EC (laying hens)
- Council Directive 2007/43/EC (broilers)
- Council Directive 2008/119/EC (calves)
- Council Directive 2008/120/EC (pigs)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (animal transports)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (killing of animals)



Scientific update: New EFSA mandates

Mandate	Agreed deadline
Transport	June 2022
Pigs	June 2022
Broilers	December 2022
Laying hens	December 2022
Calves	March 2023

Actions planned for the Fitness Check

- Roadmap published for public consultation until 29 July 2020:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12400-Fitness-Check-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare>

- Examples of steps to follow:

- targeted consultation activities tailored for particular stakeholders' groups, including competent authorities,
- a 12-week questionnaire-based, online public consultation.

- Indicative planning:



Thank you!



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

