



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

The Director-General

Brussels,
SANTE/G5/LC/iv(2021) 5314285

Subject: Roadmap of future mandates to EFSA in the field of Animal Welfare

Dear Dr Url,

With this letter, I would like to take stock of ongoing mandates to EFSA in the field of animal welfare and agree with you on a roadmap for future mandates.

The Farm to Fork Strategy announced a revision by end 2023 of the EU 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”. In this context, a number of scientific opinions on animal welfare are currently being prepared by EFSA following the mandates sent by the European Commission in the past months together with the development of a fruitful cooperation within the relevant Unit in SANTE. The current state of play can be summarised as follows:

Ongoing EFSA animal welfare scientific opinions in the framework of the Farm to Fork Strategy		
Date of the Commission mandate	Timeline of delivery of the scientific opinion	Mandate/task
	Year 2022	
3/06/2020	June 2022	Protection of pigs https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2020-00484
4/06/2020	June 2022	Protection of animals during transport (which might be split into several opinions) https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2020-00482

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9/06/2020	December 2022	Protection of domestic fowls (laying hens, pullets, layer breeders) https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2020-00483
3/06/2020	December 2022	Protection of domestic fowls (broilers, including broiler breeders) https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2020-00479
	Year 2023	
4/06/2020	March 2023	Protection of calves https://open.efsa.europa.eu/study-inventory/EFSA-Q-2020-00480
18/06/2021	March 2023	Protection of ducks, geese and quail with respect to 'End of Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2021-00395
16/07/2021	March 2023	Protection of dairy cows

To provide a comprehensive overview of ongoing EFSA scientific opinions on animal welfare, we should also recall the ongoing work on three other opinions in the context of the revision of the OIE chapter on animal welfare at the time of killing (not directly related to the Farm to Form Strategy):

Other ongoing EFSA scientific opinions on animal welfare		
Timeline for COM mandate to EFSA	Timeline for delivery of the EFSA scientific opinion	Mandate/task
	Year 2024	
06/08/2018	June 2024	Welfare aspects related to the on-farm killing of small ruminants
06/08/2018	June 2024	Welfare aspects related to the slaughter of other species – horses, ostriches, camel
06/08/2018	June 2024	Welfare aspects related to the on-farm killing of other species – horses, ostriches, camel

As the objective of the revision of the animal welfare legislation will be to broaden the scope of species-specific EU welfare requirements applicable at farm level, we would like to agree

with you in principle on a roadmap for future mandates to be delivered after 2023. This would allow the Commission to continue to respond to the objectives highlighted in the Farm to Fork Strategy (“to broaden the scope of the current legislation and to keep it scientifically updated”) after the adoption of the proposals scheduled in 2023.

On these bases, we would propose the following roadmap:

Roadmap for future EFSA animal welfare scientific opinions in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy		
	Year 2025	
June 2023	June 2025	Beef cattle
June 2023	June 2025	Sheep and goats
January 2024	December 2025	Turkeys
	Year 2026	
June 2024	June 2026	Farmed salmon and trout (other aspects than killing)
December 2024	December 2026	Ducks, geese and quail (other aspects than cages)
	Year 2027	
June 2025	June 2027	Farmed carp (other aspects than killing)
December 2025	December 2027	Horses
	Year 2028	
June 2026	June 2028	Farmed, sea bass (other aspects than killing)
June 2026	June 2028	Farmed sea bream (other aspects than killing)
June 2026	June 2028	Farmed European eel (other aspects than killing)
December 2026	December 2028	Minks, racoon dogs and foxes
	Year 2029	
December 2027	December 2029	Farmed tuna (other aspects than killing)
	Year 2030	
December 2028	December 2030	Certain invertebrates such as decapods

Although this proposed schedule may need to be revised in the coming years should certain circumstances change, this is aimed at providing a higher level of predictability for the next years and to better organise our work so to respond to the expectations raised by citizens and stakeholders in the framework of the revision of the animal welfare acquis.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Sandra GALLINA

Cc : Mr B. Van Goethem, Mr A. Gavinelli, Mr D. Simonin, Mr C. Juliusson,
Ms A. Alvizou, Mr. L. Vivas Alegre, Ms L. Carrouée (SANTE)
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