

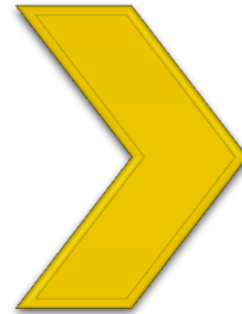
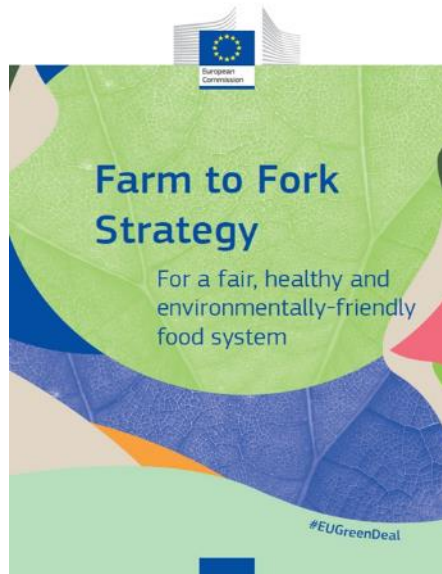
# 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare

Fitness Check  
of the EU animal welfare legislation



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# Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy



***“The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal, aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.”***

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

# Commitments by the European Commission

<b><u>EU Farm to Fork Strategy</u></b> <b><u>(COM (2020) 381):</u></b>	<b><u>“End the cage age” communication</u></b> <b><u>(COM (2021) 4747):</u></b>
<p>Revise the EU animal welfare legislation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>align it with the latest scientific evidence,</i></li><li>- <i>broaden its scope,</i></li><li>- <i>make it easier to enforce and</i></li></ul> <p><b>ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.</b></p> <p><b>Consider options for animal welfare labelling</b> to better transmit value through the food chain.</p>	<p>Proposal by the end of 2023 to <b>phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages</b> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- laying hens,</li><li>- sows,</li><li>- calves,</li><li>- rabbits,</li><li>- pullets,</li><li>- broiler breeders,</li><li>- layer breeders,</li><li>- quail,</li><li>- ducks and</li><li>- geese.</li></ul>

# First step: Fitness Check of current rules

Directive 98/58/EC on animals kept  
for farming purposes

Directive 1999/74/EC on laying hens

Directive 2007/43/EC on broilers

Directive 2008/119 on calves

Directive 2008/120 on pigs

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005  
on animal transport

Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009  
on slaughter and killing

# Elements in support of the Fitness Check



# Fitness Check findings – challenges and caveats

## LACK OF DATA

Data available at EU level is not extensive and reliable enough to convey meaningful information about levels of compliance with the legislation on animal welfare at farm, during transport and at the time of killing.



## LACK OF INDICATORS

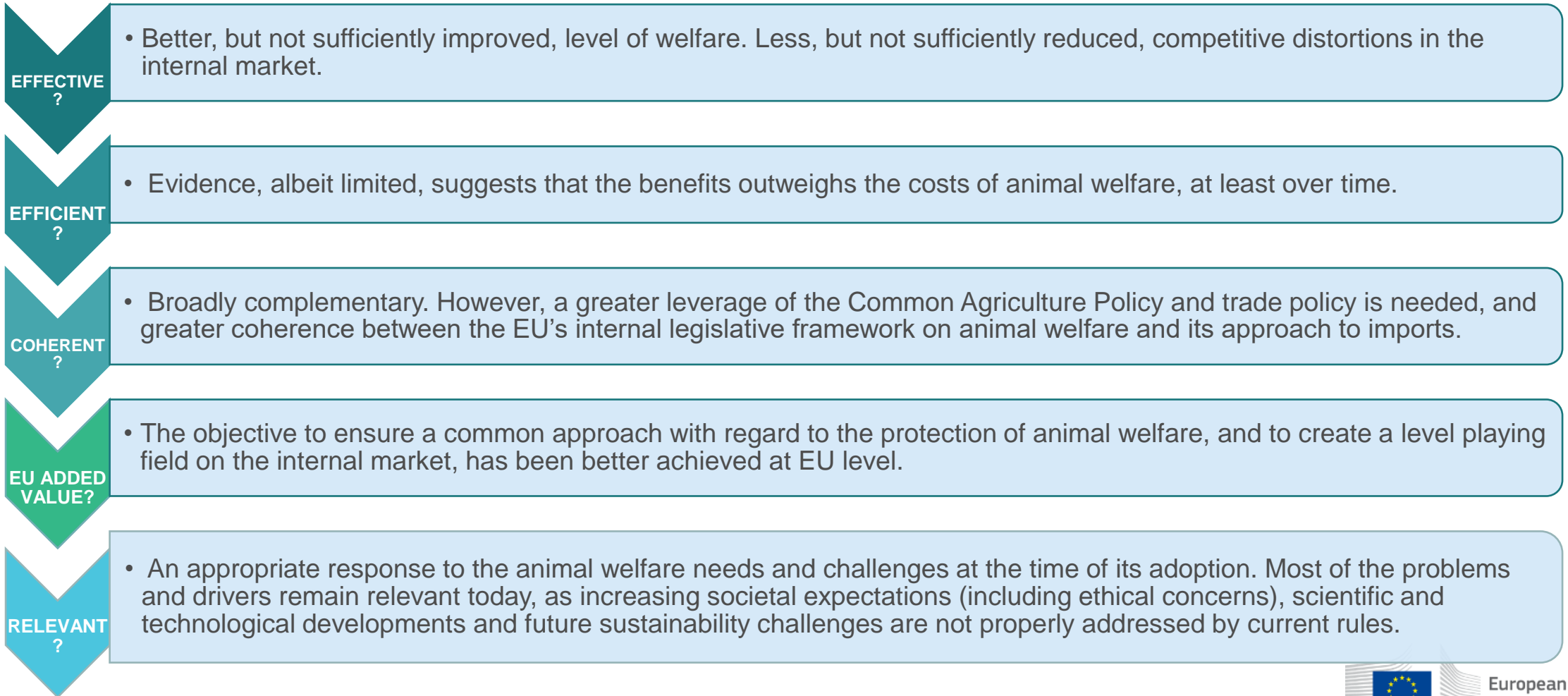
There is no single generally agreed indicator to measure animal welfare (and not even any common definition of animal welfare).

## DIFFICULT TO MONETISE

The lack of animal welfare indicators and data was a major impediment to the cost-benefit analysis. Many costs could not be monetised, and benefits could in general not be quantified.

The Fitness Check findings remain overall sufficiently robust as regards the development of animal welfare in the EU. However, to some extent assumptions had to be made.

# Fitness Check - evaluation criteria



# Fitness Check findings – main problems and needs

## ALIGN WITH CURRENT SCIENCE

- Scientific and technological developments are not fully reflected in current rules.

## BROADEN THE SCOPE

- Sub-optimal level of welfare of animals in the EU, in particular where targeted legislation is lacking.

## MAKE IT EASIER TO ENFORCE

- Differences in application and enforcement across the EU, partly due to the vagueness of certain provisions.
- Robust indicators for monitoring and triggering improvements in animal welfare are missing.

## ADDRESS SOCIETAL DEMANDS

- Increasing societal expectations and ethical concerns, including as regards consumer information (labelling).



# Fitness Check findings – costs and benefits

## COSTS

- Increased costs and additional administrative burden, mainly borne by the farmers.
- Low compared to other costs, such as feed and energy.
- Differences between Member States.

## BENEFITS

- Evidence of several benefits, e.g.:
  - Economic (higher yields and product quality, lower incidence of injuries and chronic diseases).
  - Public health (lower use of antimicrobials).

## MARKET RETURN?

- Not sufficient, according to business organisations.
- Consumers declare a will to pay a higher price for animal welfare compared to a standard product.
- Animal welfare labelling could play a role.

# Fitness Check findings – main lessons learned

## NEED FOR UPDATE

- Legislation needs to be updated to reflect societal expectations and ethical concerns, scientific and technological development and sustainability challenges.

## MONITORING SYSTEM

- There is a lack of concepts and tools, such as robust indicators, and baselines to measure animal welfare, its variation, and evolution over time.

## IMPRECISE PROVISIONS

- The language of certain provisions is too vague and ambiguous, which creates enforcement problems and varying levels of implementation. Further precision could be sought, including by providing clearer definitions.

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- The potential for further simplification and cost reduction, including by an increased use of digital tools, could be explored.

Thank you