

European Declaration on pig castration

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Setting the stage

- Castration important animal welfare issue
- Pig castration is practiced to avoid
 - undesirable sexual or aggressive behaviour
 - development of boar taint
- Experience with non-castrated pigs extremely varied
- Sense of urgency varies across countries
- Solving boar taint condition for market acceptance
- Lack of information across whole pork supply chain

European Declaration



- Signed in 2010
- Signatories represent business, policy, science, society
- States that castration of pigs is an animal welfare concern.
- Two steps,
 - castration of pigs with prolonged analgesia and/or anesthesia (2012)
 - castration of pigs should be abandoned (2018)
- Expert Group established to ensure implementation

Expert Group

Members

COPA-COGECA, national and regional farmers associations, UECEBV, CLITRAVI, ADT, FESASS, IFAH-Europe, QS, EFFAB, FVE, DAFC, UGPVB, Cooperl, ANPROGAPOR, Eurogroup for Animals, Eurocommerce, scientific experts, and policy officers

- Ensure implementation in transparent and efficient manner
- Provide focus on actions to be taken
- Exchange information
 - Barriers involved
 - Directions for solutions

Results

Even though goal of ending castration 2018 will not be reached, the declaration is an innovative and positive step facilitating communication between all stakeholders.

The declaration has already achieved positive results:

- Progress report published in 2014
- A roadmap has been prepared in 2015: necessary actions and steps to be taken clearly defined
- Elaboration of communication and information plan in 2017
- Broad dissemination results research projects (e.g. CAMPIG, CASTRUM) funded by Commission

Contributing to a decreasing number of castrated pigs, and more awareness in general

Right now we are working on a:

- List of products and protocols used for anesthesia and analgesia
- Second progress report 2014- 2017
- Establishing stronger connection with the IPEMA COST action program

We are not ready yet, we need:

- Further knowledge on methods on Boar taint detection
- List of traditional products requiring heavier pigs to be covered by a derogation
- To look at distribution of costs and benefits along the value chain
- To closely monitor developments in the international meat market

Reflection

Expert Group established strong and broad network bringing stakeholders to work together

- Different areas: Business, science, society, policy
- Diverging interests, but trying to find compromises acceptable to all

Declaration and establishment Expert group very good initiative

- Stimulating new way of trying to work together in several ways
- We recognize that it goes not as fast and as far as we want
- We simply don't have enough human and financial resources to go faster as a European group
 - Huge recent developments in different countries, could maybe affect the European pork market
 - We also need to get the market and retailers ready

We need support for our work to help us to get to the next level and acceptance of the specified animal welfare aspects in the declaration.

Thank you for your attention!

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