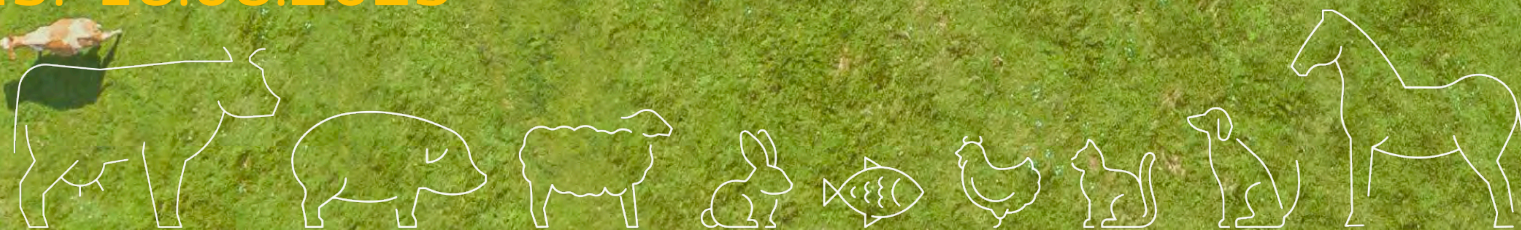


13th meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare

Subgroup on the Welfare of Poultry

Overview of the subgroup work

15.-16.06.2023



Kirsten VORNHAGEN, policy officer, DG SANTE/G5

The subgroup: members



- 10 members + Commission + guests

- 2 Independent experts
- 1 Civil society organisation
- 3 Business and professional organisations
- 4 Member States / EEA Countries

Evangelia Sossidou / Leonardo J. Vi

Eurogroup for animals

AVEC / COPA / FVE

Czech Republic / Denmark / Spain /
Norway

- Guests invited for the presentation of specific issues
- Up to now: 11 meeting in total (2 since last Platform meeting last December)

Topics discussed in the first 9 meetings



Impacts of selective breeding;
prohibition of cages;
addressing the five domains;
training requirements for animal handlers;
indicators;
monitoring, measuring and reporting tools;
outdoor access/ fresh air,
light, gas (NH₄, CO₂), temperature;
environmental enrichment;
space allowance;
mutilations;
duty-of-care (SOP), etc.

Topics discussed since last Platform meeting

10th meeting of the subgroup (30/01/2023)

Screening of current legislation

- 1999/74/EC - laying hens
- 2007/43/EC – broilers
- 98/58/EC – general farming

11th meeting of the subgroup on poultry (10/05/2023)

Considerations on the recommendations given in the EFSA scientific opinions on the

- Welfare of laying hens on farm
- Welfare of broilers on farm



Screening of current legislation

Views of the subgroup (examples):

- The **scope** of the Directives needs to be extended (e.g. delete/reduce exceptions, include farms now under marketing standards and organic legislation)
- **Mutilations** should be banned or much more restricted (e.g. beak trimming, castration of chickens)
- Clarify **inspection** requirements (e.g. human, physical; artificial intelligence systems only as a helping tool but not replacing humans; increased frequency in case of need)
- Add **specific requirements** for further species and categories (e.g. height for quail, water for waterfowl, equipment for pullets)

Considerations on the recommendations given in EFSA scientific opinions

Views of the subgroup (examples):

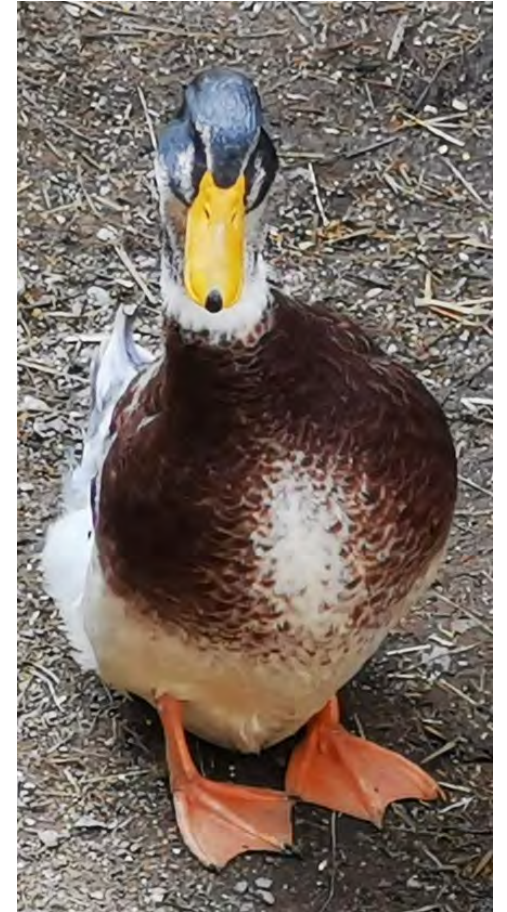
- **Outdoor access**, including covered verandas should be required only on a voluntary basis (difficulties due to necessary building and environmental permits).
- Many recommendations are **related** to each other thus all (most) of them need to be addressed.
- Non-cage farming, elevated structures, pecking blocks, litter and frequent monitoring should, in general, be **no problem**. Difficulties are seen with dark brooders – especially in multi-tier systems.
- Protocols for **welfare traits** (breeders) are considered absolutely necessary. A good way would be installation of an automated system in slaughterhouses.
- Recommended **stocking densities** are extremely low. Such densities will put economic survival of European farmers at stake.
- Better than a recommended **maximum daily weight gain** (broilers) would be to lay down key welfare indicators or to foresee permitting only the use of specific recognized breeding lines.

Next steps and outlook for further topics



- 12th (final) meeting on 26 July 2023

Subject:
EFSA
scientific
opinion on
the Welfare
of ducks,
geese and
quail on
farm.





Thank you for your attention

Thank you to the members of the
subgroup for the work and the
openness to share knowledge and views