

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

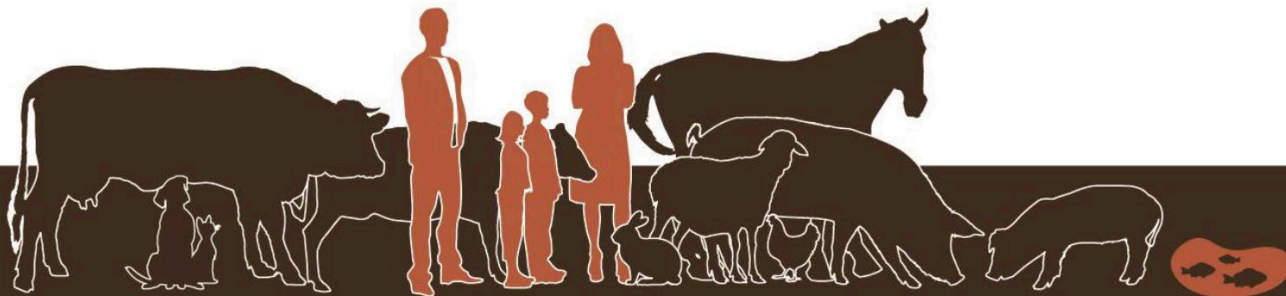
- Tenth meeting -

# Exchange on possible approaches to the future revision of the legislation based on Copa Cogeca vision

10<sup>th</sup>, november 2021

**Miguel Angel Higuera**

Chair of Copa Cogeca Working Party on Animal Health and Welfare



# Who are Copa and Cogeca?

## **Two organisations....**

### **Copa**

Created in 1958, Copa represents 23 million European farmers and family members.

### **Cogeca**

Created in 1959, Cogeca represents 22, 000 European agricultural cooperatives.

### **Copa and Cogeca**

In 1962, a joint Secretariat was created, making it one of the biggest and most active organisations in Brussels

## Copa Cogeca's feedback on roadmap

- Copa Cogeca welcome the initiative to evaluate the impact of Farm to Fork strategy and future legislation linked with it → ANIMAL WELFARE in EUROPE
- The EU animal farming and related sectors have made a strong commitment to increase animal welfare
- We welcome science-based advice on where further improvements can be made and can be applicable at farm level taken in account:
  - To ensure a *higher level* of animal welfare;
  - align the legislation with the *latest scientific evidence*;
  - make it *easier to enforce*.
  - emphasise a fair trade policy, ensuring a level playing field, as a precondition for higher European standards,
  - ensure a fair distribution of costs and benefits in the food chain.
  - Competitiveness in international markets

# Approaches to the future revision

## Transport

Need for a revision and an update that can ensure harmonised enforcement of the legislation

Space allowances, travel times and travel conditions

- The quality of the environment in the vehicles for animal transport is hugely important for animal welfare. This includes factors like ventilation, temperature, ceiling height, the nature of the floor, space allowance, etc.
- Ask to EFSA to look into science-based adjustments in this context as a way to improve the quality of long-distance transport, rather than focusing solely on reducing the length of the journey.

# Approaches to the future revision

## **Transport. Live animal exports to non-EU countries**

European standards are among the highest worldwide (→ highest level of AW in transport)

Are those standards upheld in non EU-Countries?

Develop and comply with international initiatives

Guarantee of a mutual understanding of animal welfare during transport among all stakeholders.

Commercial transportation of animals for further fattening, breeding, etc. over long distances and, in particular, to third countries is crucial.

# Approaches to the future revision

## *Animal welfare at farm level*

### **- Five domains / Five Freedoms**

EFSA has to conduct further research into the areas where scientific work still needs to be carried out before any recommendations on legislative proposals are delivered.

### **- Duty-of-care**

Clarifying this concept of *duty-of-care* for farmers may be a good way of translating a common understanding into requirements and measures that are tailored to specific farm circumstances.

Develop a simplified legislation → more practical and targeted rules = Flexibility for farmers and less administrative and production costs.

# Approaches to the future revision

## A prohibition on cages/stalls

- Definition of “cage”
- Increased animal welfare standards will affect EU farmers’ production costs y a heterogeneous way (by countries and by production system)
- To move forward is needed:
  - Transitional period to reduce the negative impact
  - Knowledge in the results (production and AW) of new facilities
  - Alignment with Animal Health and Environment protection
  - Economic support
  - Eliminate Administrative burdens
- Exchange information between farmers is crucial (face to face meetings). Pilot projects
- Eliminating uncertainties

# Approaches to the future revision

## Mutilations

Animals hurt each other as a result of their natural behaviour

This necessitates interventions to protect the animals from each other and from themselves.

- Tail dockings (pigs)
  - Multifactorial issue
  - Lack of repeatability
  - no single reliable solution to prevent tail biting has been developed yet
  - Practicable solutions must first be found before restrictions are tightened.



# Approaches to the future revision

## Mutilations

- Castration of piglets
  - Boar taint detection in slaughterhouses
  - Different alternatives methods at farm level have to be considered
    - Entire males
    - Immunocastration
    - Anaesthesia / Analgesia
- Beak Trimming
  - This is a practice that is used worldwide to prevent injurious pecking among laying hens but also other poultry species.
  - Outbreak can result in high aggressiveness/an increase number of attacks and mortality.
  - Farmers will continue their work in providing solutions and trying to keep birds with intact beaks.

# Approaches to the future revision

- Import products from animal origin
- Animal welfare indicators?  
**Prevent better than cure**
- More precise terminology, definitions and requirements
- Competence of animal handlers. Training
- *Animal welfare at the time of killing*
- *Animal welfare labelling*
  - EC's subgroup on animal welfare labelling

- \* Voluntary
- \* Multi-level
- \* Co-existence with existing AW labelling schemes

# Approaches to the future revision

## Assessment of Expected Impacts

- Economic impact
- Social impact
- Environmental impacts
- Impacts on fundamental rights
- Impacts on simplification and/or administrative burden



Thanks for listening

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