

Brussels, 9 July 2018

## Minutes

Third meeting of the **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**  
21 June 2018, Albert Borschette Building

### **1. Third meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare**

The meeting was web streamed. A recording of the meeting is available under:  
<https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/3rd-meeting-of-the-platform-on-animal-welfare>

### **2. List of points discussed**

#### **2.1. Opening session**

##### **2.1.1. Introduction and welcome to participants**

The Chair, Xavier Prats Monné, Director General for Health and Food Safety, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

##### **2.1.2. Aleksandra Miteva, Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Bulgarian Presidency activities on animal welfare**

Ms Miteva presented the Bulgarian Presidency's activities on animal welfare included in the Council agenda and some other animal welfare issues relevant at national level. As a main priority, she outlined the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, especially as regards the export by road of live animals to Middle East countries. Concerns which still remain unresolved are related to exceeding travelling times, transport during extreme summer temperatures and contingency planning. Following the latest data from the inspections at the exit point of the EU to Turkey, the level of compliance with EU legislation has improved. In April 2018 the Bulgarian Presidency held a Conference on Animal Welfare during transport in Sofia targeted the competent authorities of EU Member States (Chief Veterinary Officers, National Contact Points on transport and other experts). The conference concluded by producing recommendations to operators, Member States and the European Commission. In addition to transport, Bulgaria identified as priorities at national level the welfare of pigs and the illegal movement/trade of pet animals.

#### **2.2. Morning session**

##### **2.2.1. Xavier Prats Monné, Director General of DG SANTE – Presentation and adoption of the agenda**

Mr Prats Monné presented the agenda. The Slovenian representative asked for the addition of a point under AOB in order to inform the Platform about a decision of the national court regarding ritual slaughter. The representative of the Netherlands asked that a point on voluntary initiative on the welfare of pet animals (dogs) be added under AOB. Both requests were accepted. Vier Pfoten asked for future meetings to include time slots in the agenda,

allowing members to raise questions after the Commissioner's speech. The agenda was then approved.

### **2.3. Session 1: Enforcement – subgroups of the Platform**

#### **2.3.1. Patrick Caruana, SANTE Unit F2 'Animals' – Presentation of the outcomes of the first meeting of the subgroup on transport**

The first meeting of the subgroup was held on 16 May 2018. The Commission reminded members of the importance of appointing representatives with the necessary level of technical expertise in the field of animal transport in order to properly contribute to the work of the subgroup. The subgroup is composed of 20 members, working in three groups on the following areas: extreme temperatures/weather conditions, export of cattle and transport of unweaned animals. A number of deliverables are planned or being developed under each of the subgroups. As regards extreme temperatures, a general document, a scenario-solution document and factsheets are planned or being developed, together with a strategy for their dissemination. Concerning the export of cattle, the subgroup will work on producing recommendations on comprehensive planning, a list of import requirements and a possible list of resting facilities in third countries, as well as the necessity of identifying all players involved in transport. Finally, regarding the transport of unweaned animals, future work will focus on: prolonged hunger, thermal comfort and the health/fitness of calves before transport. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 October 2018.

##### **2.3.1.1. Questions and answers**

Members (in particular, UECVB, CIWF, Vier Pfoeten and the Netherlands) raised the issue of high temperatures, some of them agreeing that the transport of livestock should not be performed when the temperature is over 30° C. EFFAB argued that applying such an approach would constitute a serious problem in many countries of Southern and Eastern Europe, while AVEC pointed out that too much attention was paid to transport to Turkey, which makes it impossible to standardize conclusions. Some members (especially UECVB, Vier Pfoeten, Eurogroup for Animals, EFFAB) also raised the issue of subgroup composition asking to avoid duplication in expertise and the fact that the work in three working groups within the subgroup restricts the number of opinions on the subject.

Mr Caruana reminded people that changing legislation does not fall within the scope of the Platform and that efforts should concentrate on the implementation of existing legislation. He insisted that the Commission needs contributions from subgroup members based on technical know-how and specific expertise, but it is up to Platform members to appoint delegates with an appropriate level of expertise. He also highlighted the need to maintain small working groups to enhance working activities.

Some members (Animals' Angels, Eurogroup for Animals) asked the Bulgarian Presidency to share the recommendations issued by the CVO Conference. Eurogroup for Animals asked for a meeting with the Bulgarian competent authority to discuss the situation at the border, particularly during the summer period. Ms Miteva replied that the recommendations from the Conference should be disseminated soon. The dialogue with national authorities is also highly welcomed and Bulgaria will do everything in its power to protect animals during transport.

### **2.3.2. Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety – Speech**

The Commissioner announced that a second subgroup, focused on the welfare of pigs will be established. Pointing out that tail docking is still widespread in the EU and many pigs are deprived of manipulable materials, he also reminded people of all the Commission's actions for improving the implementation of the Pig Directive (a Recommendation, audits, study visits, a workshop and educational materials) and called for a collective effort from all stakeholders. The Commissioner then addressed the welfare of farmed fish, reminding people that the Commission published a study on the transport and killing of farmed fish last year, and adopted a report on the possibility of introducing certain requirements regarding the protection of fish at the time of killing. Moreover, the designation of the first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare was welcomed. Furthermore, the Commissioner announced that all actions of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy have been completed. Since November 2017, the Commission has adopted three reports: on the killing of farmed fish, the welfare of broilers and the impact of EU international animal welfare activities. The latter demonstrates that animal welfare does not constitute a competitive disadvantage for business operators. The Commissioner also presented the educational material issued by the Commission on best practices at the time of killing. In addition, he drew everyone's attention to the development of the Digital Platform and thanked the Platform members for their efforts and commitment.

#### **2.3.2.1. Exchange of views**

Platform members congratulated the Commission on the results achieved and the fulfilment of the EU Strategy on Animal Welfare. Some (in particular, EuroFAWC, Denmark, FVE, CIWF, COPA-COGECA) asked to further discuss the welfare of animals and to start a new strategy and better implementation of existing regulations. Vier Pfoten also urged the Commission to act on this point by adopting new laws.

The Commissioner replied by recalling that implementation is mostly up to Member States and that new laws are not needed for the time being – it is now time for the assessment and enforcement of existing legislation instead. He also stressed the importance of educational activities and collaboration between stakeholders.

### **2.4.3. Ana Ramirez Vela, Head of SANTE Unit F2 'Animals' – Presentation of the scope and terms of reference of the subgroup on the welfare of pigs**

The subgroup will assist the Platform in areas covered by the Pig Directive. Its main goal is to reduce the risk of tail-biting by delivering information, recommendations and proposals for practices. Transport and slaughter are not the scope of this subgroup. Its priorities will be identifying tools and means for implementation and enforcement, policy indicators, technical innovation, knowledge transfer to players. The subgroup will be composed of 8 seats for Member States, EEA countries and international organizations; 6 for business and professional organizations; 3 for NGOs; 3 for independent experts. Ms Ramirez Vela asked the members of the platform to appoint technical experts to represent their organisations within the subgroup, especially as regards the issue of tail-biting. The first meeting of the subgroup will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, in Grange, Ireland.

#### **2.3.3.1 Questions and answers**

Many Platform members (especially, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, European Meat Network, Animalhealth Europe and Eurogroup for Animals) asked the Commission to include in the mandate of the pig subgroup actions for stopping the need for surgical castration of piglets. Ms Ramirez Vela reminded people that pig castration is outside the scope of the subgroup since this is not an enforcement issue (castration is permitted in EU law). Eurogroup for Animals replied that, given the widespread agreement among Platform members on this issue, the Commission should reconsider its position. The Chair confirmed the Commission's position, informed members of the ongoing pilot project on pig castration and invited concerned members to initiate a voluntary initiative instead.

Some concerns about the ratio of subgroup members were also raised by some Platform members (Eurogroup for Animals, COPA).

Finally, the World Bank presented its activities on animal welfare at international level, especially in less developed countries. It aims at promoting good practices and knowledge transfer, by cooperating with universities and the FAO.

## **2.4. Afternoon session**

The afternoon session was chaired by Mr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE.

### **2.4.1. Session 2: Voluntary initiatives – Welfare of farmed fish**

#### **2.4.2. Bente Bergersen, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Head Office – State's perspective: Norway**

Ms Bergersen presented the theme of the welfare of farmed fish from the state perspective of Norway.

As fish farming represents the main animal production system in the country and a high value market, Norway considers the welfare of all individuals important. Since 1974, the Animal Welfare Act is applicable to fish. New regulations have been implemented in response to the 1990s debates on fish pain and the rapid development of fish production.

Between 2005 and 2008, Welfare Regulations were issued on all production cycles: the keeping of farmed fish, slaughter, transport and the approval of aquaculture establishments. To ensure their understanding and application, training programmes have been put in place for inspectors and workers with practical and theoretical courses about water quality, feed, stunning or handling.

She also raised the issue of salmon lice, a common parasite that can infect millions of fish in Norway. This louse can cause welfare issues such as the reduction in the appetite of fish and became more difficult to eradicate due to drug resistance problems. Hot water treatments or cleaner fish can be used as a solution but their high mortality rate raises new welfare issues. Norway has focused on it this year and established new protocols and inspections of hatcheries/farms. Ms Bergersen concluded by speaking about the rapid changes and technological developments in fish farming that have led to new methods. Manufacturers are

obliged to test them and prove fish welfare safety otherwise they can face financial or legal sanctions such as the withdrawal of their license.

#### **2.4.3. Andrea Fabris, Veterinarian, Director of the Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani – Industry's perspective: FEAP**

Mr Fabris introduced the industry perspective on the welfare of farmed fish. The aquaculture industry is characterized by its variety. Fish species evolve in various environments from sea water to freshwater but they also have different life cycles and physical needs. Fish farms can range from modern hatcheries to traditional extensive systems and feeding varies from farms or countries. Only taking salmon or trout into account for the establishment of health and welfare indicators leads to a lack of flexibility and diversity. He presented three specific areas where welfare can be improved: farming, transport and stunning and slaughtering. As the industry cannot control all natural and legislative parameters, the implementation of good management practices can ensure fish welfare and food quality, especially with the training of operators for fish stunning and slaughtering.

Mr Fabris expressed the need for more science-based results related to the welfare of all farmed species and operational welfare indicators which are easily measurable and applicable in farms. The industry should share good practices and dialogue with the Commission, stakeholders and State Members authorities to develop new regulations. Considering the large number of fish imports in the EU, the Commission should put more effort into campaigns to promote farmed fish within the EU and to support new calls for projects such as the one from Horizon 2020 on the Mediterranean area/welfare indicators.

#### **2.4.4. Doug Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader, Eurogroup for Animals – Animal Welfare Organization's perspective: Eurogroup for Animals**

Mr Waley declared that scientists have proved that fishes are sentient and share similarities with humans such as hormonal stress, pain killer responses or pain detection. As they are kept captive, their welfare should be taken into account. Mr Waley presented public opinion on fish welfare through a survey for which a thousand European citizens from 9 Member States responded. Most of them recognised fish pain and sentience, they also recognized factors of fish welfare and its importance. He shared substantial knowledge on transport, health and the handling of fish and how the stress of being handled or the lack of medication can affect fish welfare. Elements such as stunning and reducing stress prior to death improve the food quality and make processing more efficient. He presented the central conclusions of the Commission report on the *Welfare of farmed fish* and highlighted the fact that OIE Standards for the slaughter of fish are not implemented across most sectors of European aquaculture. Fish asphyxiation in ice is still used and even recommended by some Member States such as Spain. The report also shows that the improvement of slaughter techniques does not have negative impacts. They either cause financial savings or small increases in production costs.

Mr Waley concluded with the EU legal framework, current opportunities and people's understanding of "sustainable". The EU should develop EU guidelines to help operators and competent authorities to implement slaughter regulations, deliver the necessary training of personnel but also create transport guidelines to give missing parts of transport regulations to operators. There is also still research to be done on species' needs to establish species specific

welfare indicators. On the other hand, citizens are more and more aware of fish welfare and the sustainable parameters of the fish chain.

#### **2.4.5. Voluntary initiatives – Welfare of farmed fish - Exchange of views (15 interventions)**

Greece, as a country with a substantial fish production, addressed to the Platform members its willingness to share good practices, information and produce materials with other members to improve fish welfare. Greece also encouraged the creation of a subgroup on fish welfare according to the available resources. Several members of the Platform supported the proposal to create a subgroup (Sweden, FEAP, Austria, CIWF and Slow Food). Ms Dwyer, an independent expert from Scotland, reminded people of the importance of research on fish species and fish behaviour as the salmon farms encounter fin-biting issues, similar to pig tail-biting.

The Netherlands volunteered to share information about stunning some fish species such as Tilapia or Turbot. The Commission explained that there are not enough resources to respond to the demand for a new subgroup but results from voluntary subgroups can be presented during the next meeting.

Spain reacted to Mr Waley's comment on fish asphyxiation, specifying that the Spanish document was a summary of all methods that can be used and not recommendations. Mr Waley responded that his information came from a Spanish code of practices published by The Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification (AENOR). Spain explained that AENOR is a private group and that a Eurogroup representative from the Spanish branch had approved the document. OIE and Iceland presented future events on aquatic animal health and invited the Platform members to participate.

Denmark wanted to draw attention to pullets, explaining that some Platform members have sent a letter to the Chairman of the Platform with a discussion paper on pullets to create a dedicated subgroup<sup>1</sup>. Denmark reminded people of the importance of the welfare of pullets as they will become laying hens and shared its willingness to create a voluntary subgroup on pullets. Ms Keeling, an independent expert, supported the idea of a subgroup on pullets that can go further on the welfare of laying hens. Eurogroup for Animals and Greece asked the Commission to help the voluntary subgroups with technical support such as providing meeting spaces, translations and the dissemination of deliverables produced by these groups. The Commission explained that Brussels-based associations can provide meeting places while the IT platform will be a tool for the dissemination of documents between Platform members.

### **2.5. Session 3: Information and knowledge sharing**

#### **2.5.1. Eva Zamora Escribano, Head of SANTE Unit G2 'Animal Health and Welfare' – Presentation by the Commission of the Report on the impact of animal welfare international activities on the competitiveness of European livestock producers in a globalized world**

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<sup>1</sup> A joint letter on the welfare of pullets signed by the Belgian, German, Dutch, Swedish and Danish member of the EU Platform for Animal Welfare was sent to the Platform Chairman on 6 July 2017.

The Report is based on a study conducted by an external contractor and reviews the main international activities performed by the Commission and Member States on animal welfare, focusing on three action levels: multilateral activities, bilateral activities and capacity-building activities. Ms Zamora Escibano presented the conclusions of the report which indicate that compliance with animal welfare standards has a limited impact on the competitiveness of EU producers in world markets. Such compliance also has a positive impact on market access. At a multilateral level, the EU plays a key role in promoting animal welfare standards globally and is also a major player in implementing OIE standards in non-EU countries. At a bilateral level, the EU helped improve animal welfare in some non-EU countries, increasing knowledge and skills in this field. By promoting animal welfare standards, the EU both contributes to the long-term objective of improving the welfare of animals internationally and valorises the added market value of products obtained under such standards.

#### **2.5.1.1. Questions and answers**

Platform members (FAO, OIE, COPA, ISAE) congratulated the Commission on its international activities, hoping that they could continue. World Animal Protection presented its activities in support of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, inviting other Platform members to join. Some members (the Netherlands, Vier Pfoeten, HSI, COPA) urged the Commission to do more in promoting animal welfare internationally, by including stricter provisions especially for laying hens and urging non-EU countries to comply with EU standards when they import their products in the EU. Hence major concerns were also raised by those members (HSI, AVEC, COPA, Eurogroup for Animals) who pointed out possible disadvantages resulting from unfair trading practices. AVEC highlighted the disadvantage for EU industries concerning import competition, especially for chickens. COPA agreed with this opinion and asked the Commission to compel non-EU countries to comply with animal welfare standards at import. EFA proposed to give preferential access to products that follow EU rules and to increase the visibility of EU producers. FESASS pointed out that the Report presents some weaknesses, especially as regards methodology, which makes it difficult to generalize its conclusions and also highlighted the fact that compliance with animal welfare standards might constitute a competitive disadvantage under specific circumstances, such as egg production.

Ms Zamora Escibano replied that, as stated during the presentation, the conclusions based on the study have to be seen in the right context and taking into account the limited replies to questionnaires especially from non-EU countries. Notwithstanding this the Commission has obtained substantial results from its international activities on animal welfare so far. It helped raise awareness in several countries around the world and it is consistently included in the agreements with third countries as part of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) or cooperation chapters. International activities are amongst the Commission priorities in the animal welfare area and Commission will keep promoting such standards globally.

#### **2.5.2. Stanislav Ralchev, SANTE Unit G2 'Animal Health and Welfare' – Presentation of an EU Coordinated Control Plan on online sales of dogs and cats**

Mr Ralchev presented a project for an EU Coordinated Control Plan (CCP) on online sales of dogs and cats. Considering the increase of internet sales of dogs and cats and their related risks, Member States supported this initiative. The objectives of the plan will be to strengthen cooperation and administrative assistance between Member States and to gain insight into misleading practices. It will also raise awareness that online sales of dogs and cats are subject

to official controls. The participation will be voluntary and the competent authorities will be asked to search for websites offering dogs and cats in return for payment. In case of suspicion competent authorities will perform the necessary inspections. The CCP, if adopted, will be carried out for a defined time period and subject to reporting to the Commission.

#### **2.5.2.1. Questions and answers**

Spain, the Netherlands and FVE congratulated the Commission on the initiative. The RSPCA reminded people of the challenges in the field of pet trade, the need for legal enforcement and its willingness to share information and participate in the plan.

Eurogroup for Animals welcomed the Commission's initiative and asked to involve NGOs in this inquiry. The chairman replied that the CCP will be implemented by the competent authorities and should NGOs become aware of some information they are welcome to share it with the competent authorities.

#### **2.5.3. Denis Simonin, Head of Sector 'Animal Welfare', SANTE Unit G2 'Animal Health and Welfare', – Presentation of the IT platform by the Commission**

Mr Simonin presented the new Digital Tool of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare aiming to enhance dialogue and the exchange of information among members. It consists of an online collaborative instrument with access restricted to its members. The Digital Tool will be moderated by the Commission, but content will be the responsibility of users. Its scope will be different from that of the website of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. Agora, Subgroups (upon mandate of the Commission) and thematic networks will be the main online working areas. Features and functionalities were also explained.

##### **2.5.3.1. Questions and answers**

Some members (UECBV and COGECA) congratulated the Commission on this initiative. HSI raised the issue that Platform members do not always have specific know-how on technical and scientific issues, so it was asked how many representatives per Platform member could have access to the Digital Tool. The Chair answered that only one user per Platform member is allowed to access the Tool.

EFA and World Animal Protection asked for further working areas on the Tool, specifically dedicated to voluntary initiatives. Mr Simonin answered that Thematic Networks could be suitable for this purpose.

Spain pointed out that there is a need to save and share documents and other dissemination products issued on the occasion of restricted meetings and workshops. All these contents should be managed properly, by sorting what is relevant and what is not. It would also be useful to disseminate this information to the general audience, by providing a proper library on animal welfare hosted on the EU Animal Welfare website.

## **2.6. Closing**

### **2.6.1. Any other business**

As agreed at the adoption of the agenda, Mr Van Goethem invited the representatives of the Netherlands and Slovenia to present their points.



### **2.6.1.1. The Netherlands – Voluntary initiative on the health and welfare of pets (dogs) in trade**

The Netherlands presented a voluntary initiative on the health and welfare of pets in trade. As the group chair, the Netherlands organised a meeting in the NL Permanent Representation on 20 June. Its members are 9 Member States, 3 NGOs, one business organisation and an independent expert. The initiative mainly focuses on the exchange of good practices and the development of guidance materials. It will also work on improving data exchange and cooperation to ensure traceability of dogs and a better control of online trade. The Netherlands concluded by the willingness to share further results during the next Platform meeting.

### **2.6.1.2. Slovenia – Stunning in ritual slaughter in Slovenia**

Slovenia presented a national legal case about the ban of slaughter without stunning. In 2013, an Amendment of the Animal Protection Act banned the slaughter of animals without stunning, even in the case of ritual slaughter. Muslim associations contested this decision which would restrict freedom of religion. The Slovenian Constitutional Court decided after four years of deliberations that freedom of religion can be limited by another constitutional right. As the protection of animals against cruelty constitutes a public morality in the Slovenian Constitution and that moral is one of the reasons why freedom to manifest a religion can be limited in the *European convention on human rights Art.9*, the ban was not considered unconstitutional.

#### **2.6.1.2.1. Exchange of views**

CIWF congratulated Slovenia and hoped that other Member States would follow this example. Eurogroup for Animals also congratulated Slovenia on this outcome and measures taken by Belgium concerning religious slaughter. Eurogroup for Animals added that looking at the increase in the export of non-stunned meat outside the EU it should be interesting for Member States to take note of these developments and that it can also be something to discuss on the Platform.

### **2.6.2. Birte Broberg, Senior Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration – Responsible ownership and care of equidae: outcome of the Platform members' own initiative**

Ms Broberg presented the Platform members' own initiative on equines created after the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Platform. She reminded people of the possibility to create informal initiatives and share results with the Platform members. She explained member selection and detailed the composition of this initiative (Member States, business and professional organisation, NGOs, independent experts). They work on amending the discussion paper "*Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses*" and on taking forward the Resolution of the European Parliament on the responsible ownership and care of equidae. They will create two recommendation guides due to biological differences, one for horses and one for donkeys, mules and hinnies. They are not intended to replace any guides or legislation but will provide recommendations for areas where there is no specific EU-legislation. The guides will present the biological characteristics of equidae so the owners can improve their knowledge, especially in terms of behaviour. They will also be applicable regardless of the reasons why these animals are used. Ms Broberg looked forward to seeing new possibilities for the transmission and translation of the guides once finished and also the

opportunities of the IT Platform for their work. The creation of a factsheet is also considered for its practicability.

#### **2.6.2.1. Exchange of views**

The Commission highlighted the absence of reference to OIE standards on the welfare of horses in this presentation. Ms Broberg replied that OIE standards are used in their discussions. Some members (World Horse Welfare, Eurogroup for Animals) congratulated this informal initiative and expressed the hope that the Commission would give better recognition to such kind of initiatives.

#### **2.6.3. Conclusion and closing of the meeting**

Ms Zamora Escribano replaced Mr Bernard Van Goethem to conclude the meeting.

She thanked all the participants for their constructive discussions and contributions to the session. She also highlighted the cooperation between Platform members during, but also outside, the meetings. She summarised the main points of the meeting.

She announced that the next meeting of the Platform is scheduled for 19 November 2018.

### **3. List of Participants**

#### **European Commission:**

Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, Marco Valletta

DG SANTE: Xavier Prats Monné, Bernard Van Goethem, Eva Zamora Escribano, Ana Ramirez Vela, Denis Simonin, Maria Ferrara, Marguerite Kuzma, Stanislav Ralchev, Patrick Caruana, Lorenzo Gherlinzoni, Aude Luyckx

DG AGRI: Judit Krommer, Antonia Luetteken

DG GROW: Renate Weissenhorn

DG TRADE: Francisco Tristante

DG ENV: Ute Goerres

DG JRC: Marina Koussathana

DEVCO: Charlotte Claye

SG: Francesco Carlucci

**European Court of Auditors:** Colm Friel, Principal Manager; Kinga Wiśniewska-Danek, Head of private office of the reporting member of the ECA's current audit on animal welfare.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Bente Bergersen, Senior Advisor, Animal Welfare Section, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Head Office;

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader, Eurogroup for Animals;

Andrea Fabris, Veterinarian, Director of the Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani;

Birte Broberg, Senior Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration;  
Aleksandra Miteva, Head of the Animal Welfare Unit, Animal Health and Welfare, Control of  
Feed Directorate, Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the  
European Union

**Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,  
Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania,  
Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,  
and the United Kingdom.

**EEA members:** Iceland and Norway

**European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)**

**International Organisations:** FAO, the World Bank and OIE

**Business and Professional Organisations:**

Animalhealth Europe

Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU (a.v.e.c.)

European Agri-Cooperatives (COGECA)

European Farmers (COPA)

EuroCommerce – Retail, Wholesale and International Trade Representation to the EU

European Dairy Association (EDA)

European Federation of Animal Health Services (FESASS)

European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC)

European Forum for Animal Welfare Councils (EuroFAWC)

European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB)

European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and Agri-food Trade (celcaa)

European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (U.E.C.B.V.)

European Meat Network (EMN)

European Rural Poultry Association (ERPA)

Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union (CLITRAVI)

**Civil Society Organisations:**

Animals' Angels e.V.

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)

Eurogroup for Animals

Humane Society International/Europe (HSI/Europe)

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

Slow Food

VIER PFOTEN International

World Animal Protection

World Horse Welfare.

**Independent Experts:** Elisabetta Canali, Cathy Dwyer, Linda Keeling, Luc Mirabito,  
Vytautas Ribikauskas, Evangelia Sossidou, Hans Spoolder, Anna Elisabet Valros, Antonio  
Velarde Calvo

**Observer:** Switzerland