



Evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy (2012-2015)

Stanislav RALCHEV

Policy Officer, Unit G5

Directorate Crisis Preparedness in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE



EU animal welfare strategy

Commission Communication COM(2012)6

6 Objectives

- **Consider** feasibility of introducing a simplified EU legislative framework;
- **Improve** compliance with AW legislation;
- **Develop** EU level knowledge of certain issues;
- **Promote** EU animal welfare standards globally;
- **Optimise** synergies with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- **Provide** consumers and the public with appropriate information on animal welfare.

20 Actions

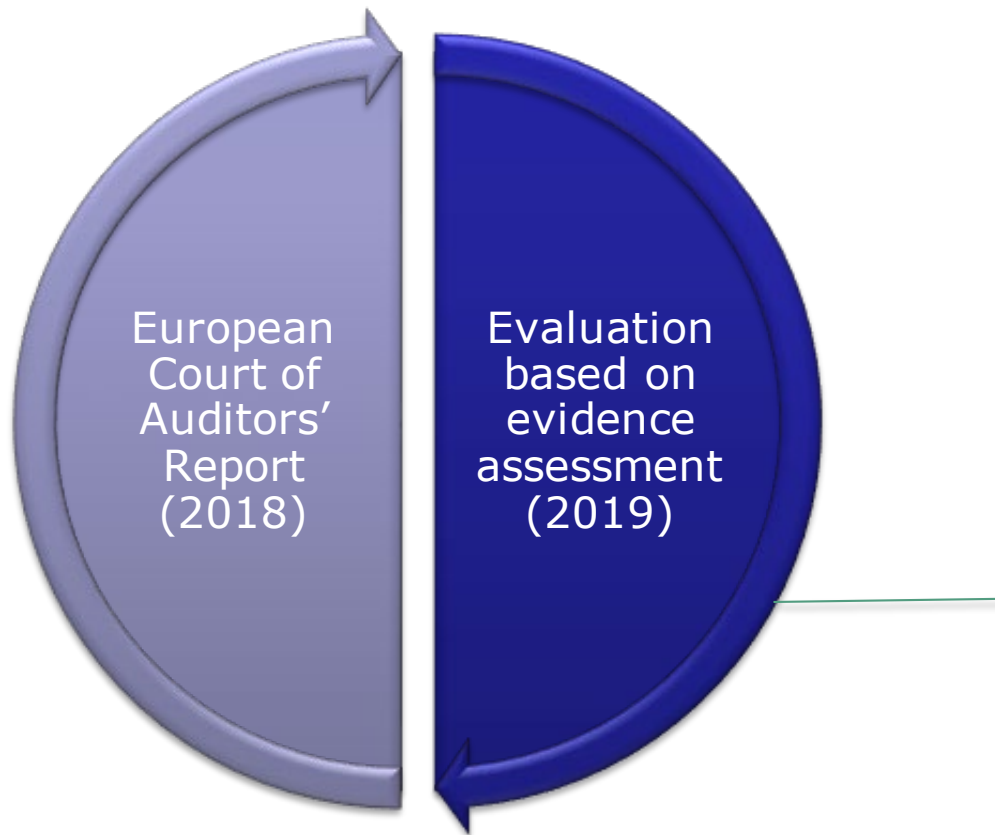
- Implementation report for the slaughter regulation;
- Study on the welfare of farmed fish during (transport and killing);
- EU guidelines on the protection of pigs;
- Other



European
Commission



Context of the evaluation




5 criteria:

- *Relevance;*
- *Coherence;*
- *Effectiveness;*
- *Efficiency;*
- *EU added value.*

Key steps of the evaluation



- Evaluation Road Map (May 2019);



- Commission Steering Group (May 2019);



- Terms of reference (September 2019);



- External Study (2019 - 2020): [→ Link](#)

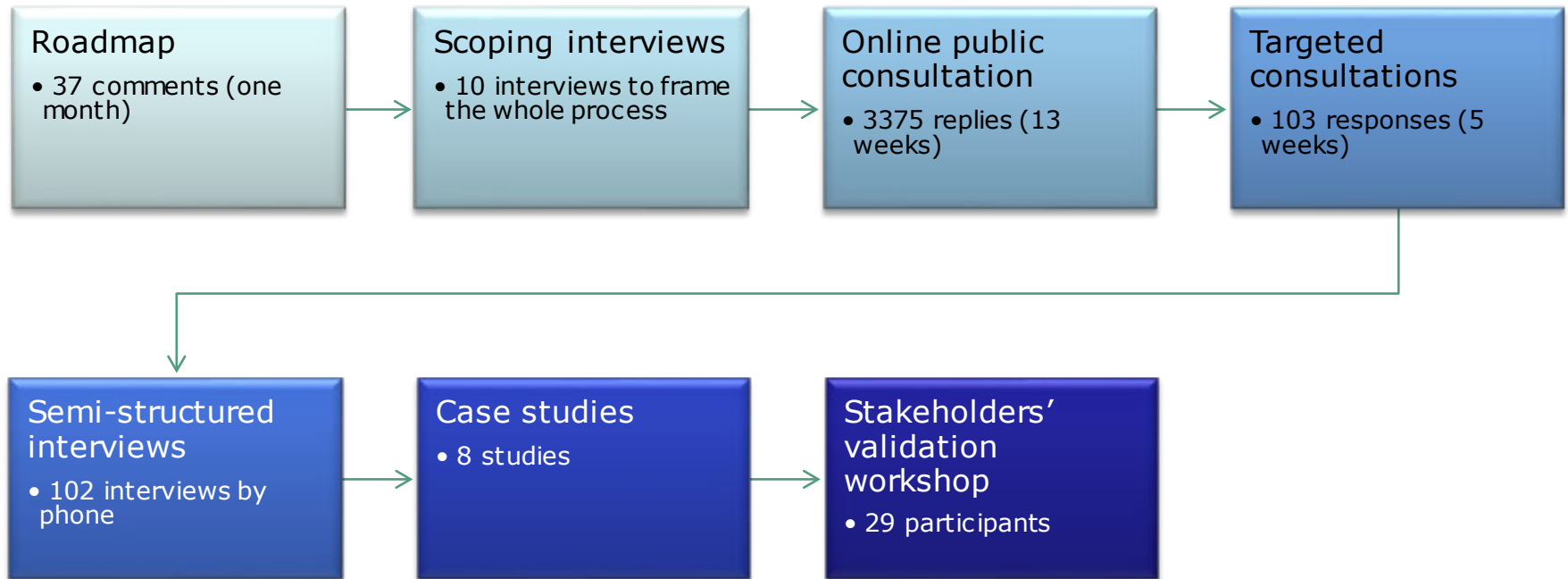


- COM Staff Working Document (March 2021): [→ Link](#)



European
Commission

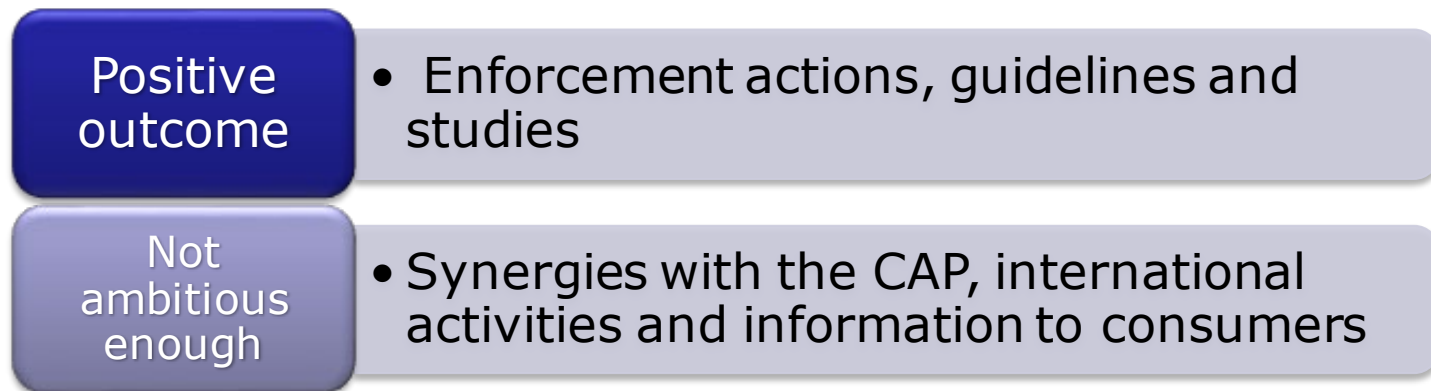
Stakeholders' consultation



Relevance

- Appropriate response to the animal welfare needs and challenges at the time.

The delivery model was appropriate for around half of the objectives:



- Most of the problems and drivers identified in the strategy **remain relevant** today.



European
Commission

Coherence

The objectives and actions of the strategy were:

Internally
coherent

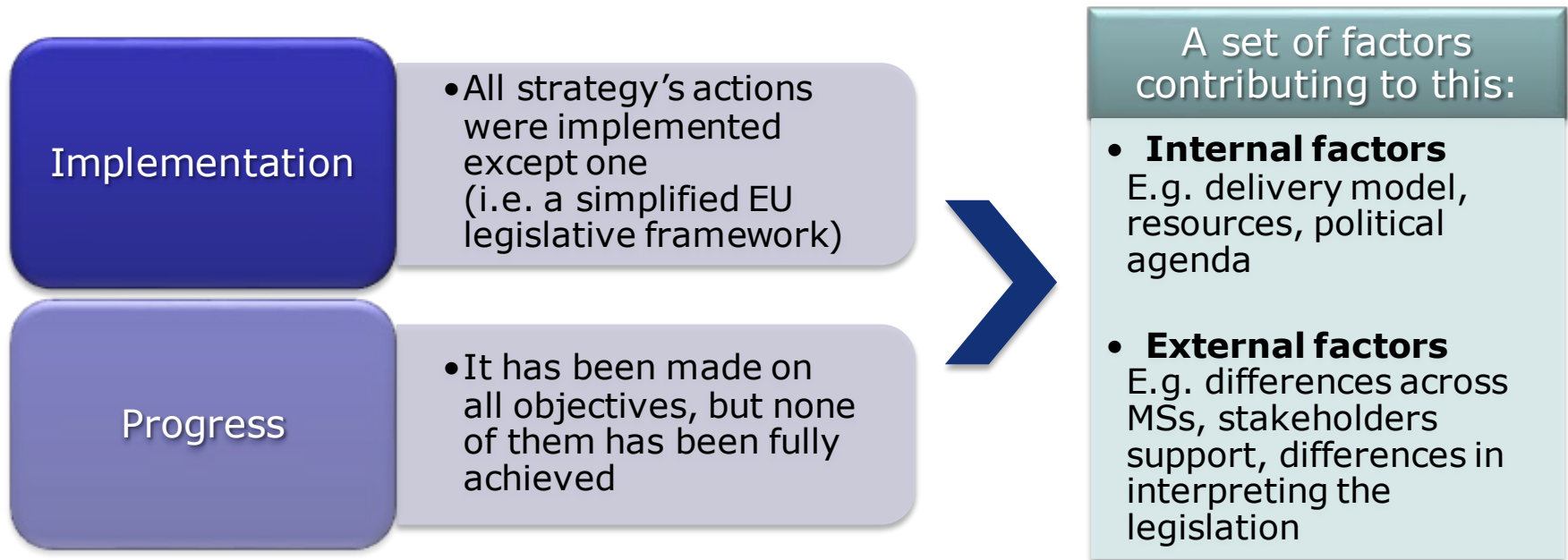
- They operated well together and led to synergies

Externally
coherent

- Interventions in Member States
- Positive examples between the strategy and various OIE initiatives on animal welfare as well as FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare

Effectiveness (1)

The strategy was overall effective as an initiative that set common goals.





European
Commission

Effectiveness (2)

Main contributions

- Prohibition of non-enriched cage systems for hens and the group housing of sows
- Key role influencing the creation of the EU Animal Welfare Platform
- Global level playing field



Remaining risks

- Animal transport (i.e. long journeys to third countries, high summer temperatures, etc.)
- Welfare of pigs (i.e. routine pig's tail docking)



Efficiency

Costs

- Largest ones linked to enforcement, monitoring, international cooperation, production of studies and reports, development and dissemination of guidelines.

Cost distribution

- Perception of uneven distribution of costs among stakeholders.

Additional resources for the strategy's actions would have improved their effectiveness.



European
Commission

EU Added Value

Within the EU

- The strategy produced results that would not have been possible at national level
- It helped to harmonise and coordinate animal welfare policy and activities in the union.

Internationally

- The strategy helped the EU to speak in one voice to promote and raise awareness about animal welfare.



European
Commission

Conclusions

Evaluation
outcomes

- Outcomes will feed into the review process of the animal welfare legislation, which will look at the legislative gaps identified in 2012 and at any new gaps.



Enforcement

- Particular attention to risk areas identified in the evaluation



Information
to
consumers

- The Commission is exploring options for an EU animal welfare label



European
Commission

Thank you for your attention!

