

9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU Platform on AW,  
22 June 2021

# Overview on the ongoing activities of EFSA on animal welfare

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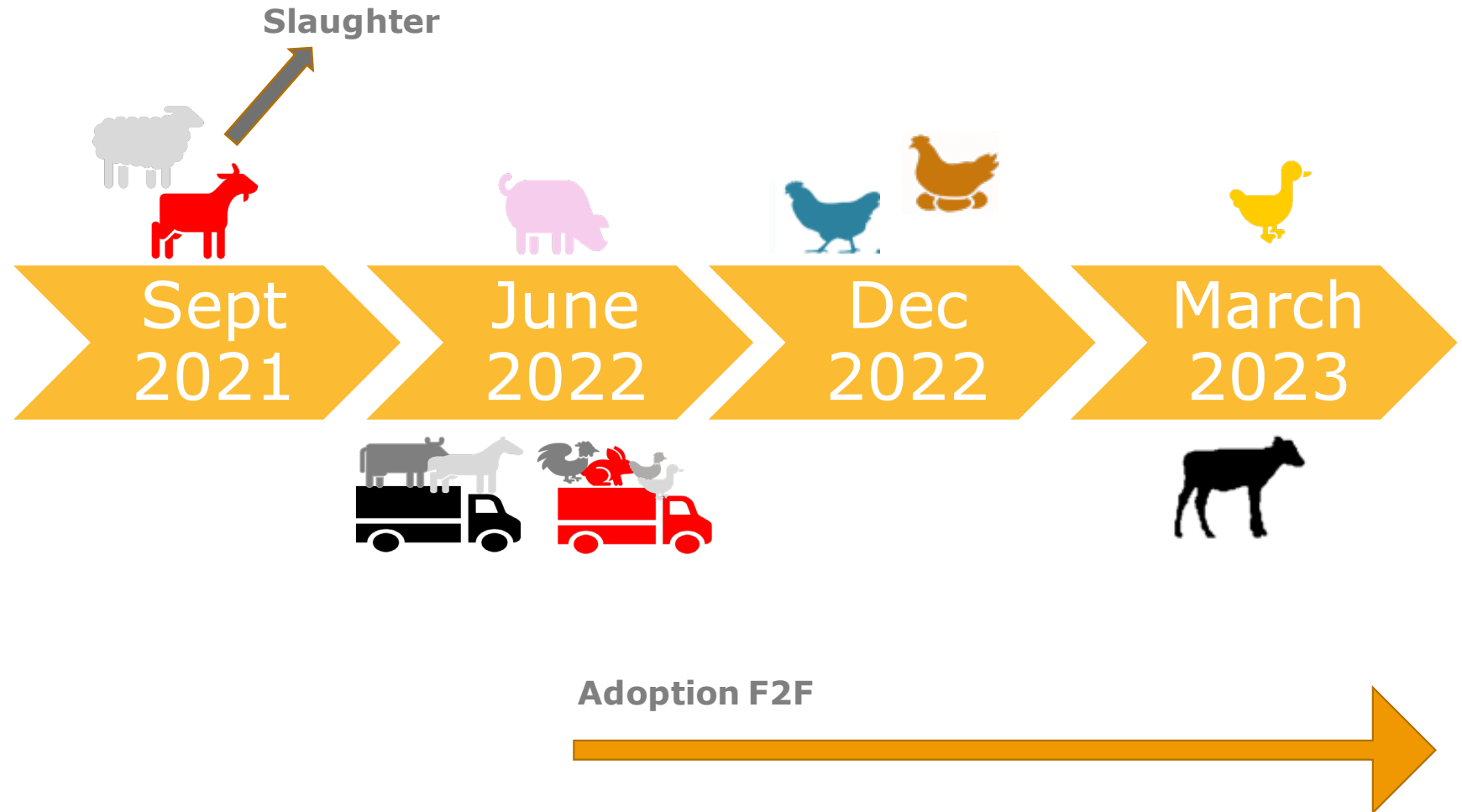
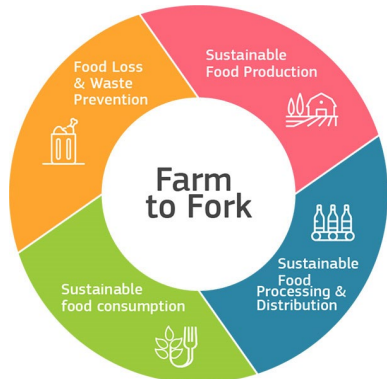
Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)  
Animal and Plant Health (ALPHA) Unit



Trusted science for safe food

# 1. Timelines for adoption of welfare scientific opinions (Slaughter + F2F)

In the framework of its **Farm to Fork strategy**, the **EC** will start a comprehensive evaluation of the animal welfare legislation.



### Common Terms of Reference (ToRs)

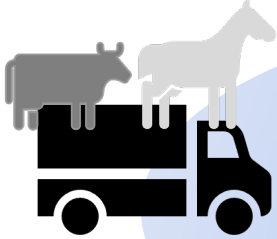
For each category of animals, Efsa will:

- ✓ **Describe**, based on existing literature and reports, the **current husbandry systems** and practices of keeping them
    - ✓ Describe the **relevant welfare consequences**.
- Relevance should not be based on a full risk assessment but on **EFSA's expert opinion** regarding the **severity**, **duration** and **occurrence** of each welfare consequence
- ✓ Define **qualitative or quantitative measures** to assess the welfare consequences (**animal-based measures**)
    - ✓ Identify the **hazards** leading to these welfare consequences
  - ✓ Provide **recommendations** to prevent, mitigate or correct the welfare consequences (resource and management-based measures).



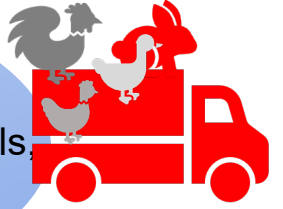
## Species Group 1

### Free-moving animals

- 
1. Equids (horses, donkeys and their crossings)
  2. Bovine animals (cattle and calves)
  3. Small ruminants (sheep and goats)
  4. Pigs

## Species Group 2

### Animals in containers

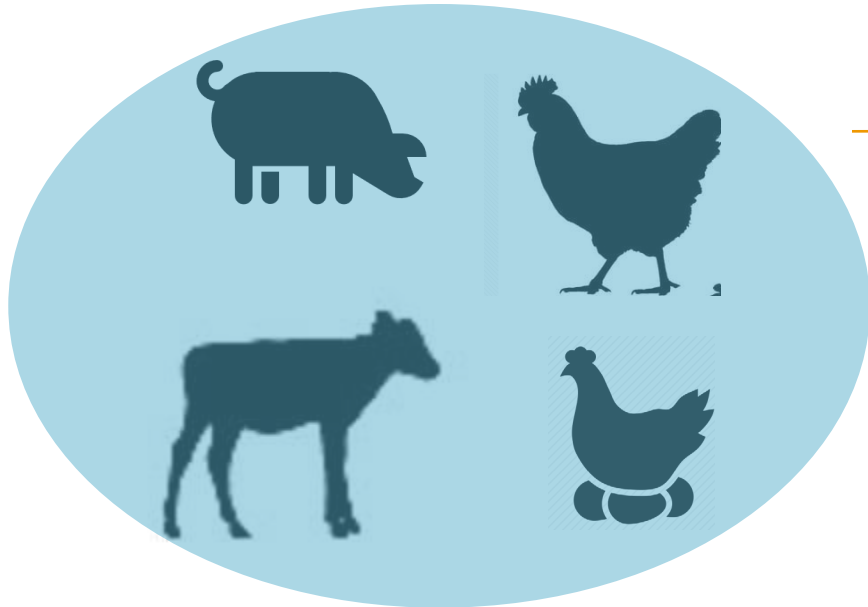
- 
5. Domestic birds (chickens for meat, laying hens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quails, etc.)
  6. Rabbits.

EFSA will describe the current practices regarding:

1. The preparation for transport (including catching and crating of poultry and rabbits)
2. Loading, unloading and handling of animals at all stages of the journey, including at destination;
3. The means of transport by road, roll-on-roll-off vessels, livestock vessels, the means of transport by rail and by air;
4. The conditions within the means of transport: space, microclimatic conditions, watering and feeding;
5. The journey duration and its circumstances as well as the resting of animals in the vehicle being stationary or being unloaded;
6. The conditions for areas where animals are unloaded and/or grouped as part of the journey (assembly centres, livestock markets, control posts, EU ports)



For specific scenarios, the Commission has identified practical difficulties or insufficient information in ensuring the welfare of animals.



For these scenarios, EFSA will propose:

→ **Detailed animal-based measures**

And

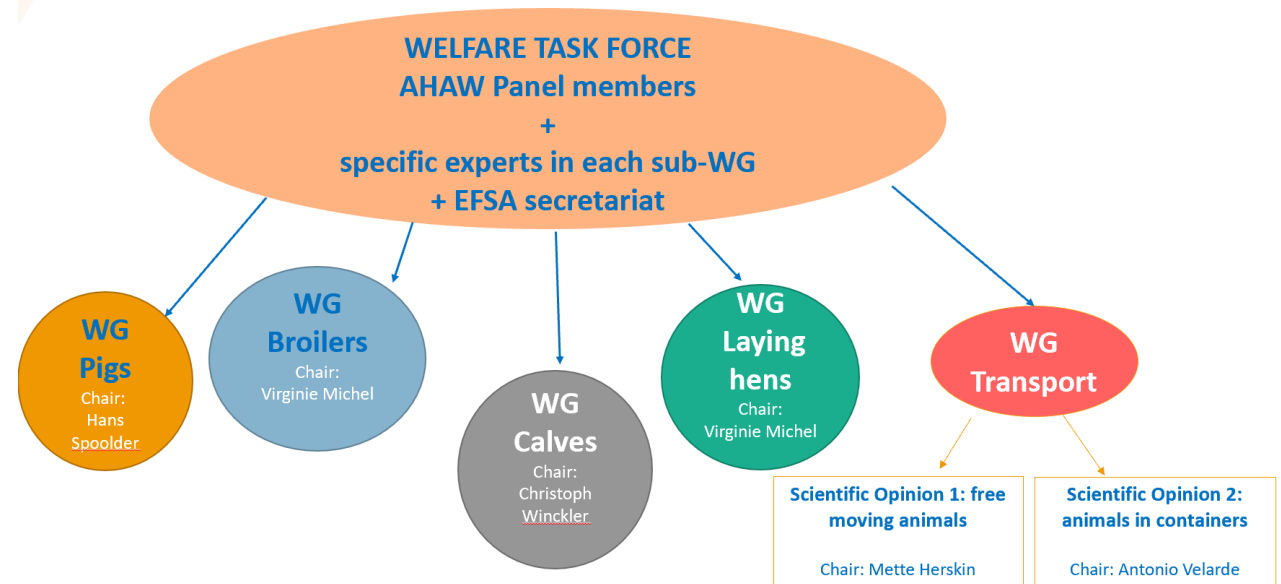
**Detailed preventive and corrective measures**

**with**, where possible, qualitative (yes/no question) or quantitative (minimum/maximum) **criteria** (i.e. requirements to prevent and/or mitigate the welfare consequences)

e.g. specific scenario 4 – mandate on the protection of pigs :

The welfare of weaners and rearing pigs, in particular with the risks associated with: a) weaning, b) space allowance, including competition for space, c) types of flooring, including poor cleanliness and comfort, d) enrichment material, e) air quality, f) health status, g) diet, including competition for food, and h) practice of mutilations (tail docking, tooth clipping, castration)

**Welfare Task Force include EFSA's secretariat and the chairs of the specific sub-working groups**



- Definition of a common list of welfare consequences (33 in total) to be used consistently in all scientific opinions
- Setting up of a common methodology for identification of relevant welfare consequences per each husbandry system/transport scenario (Common ToRs)

## **--> Expert Knowledge Elicitation exercise n.1**

- Setting up of a common methodology for quantification of criteria (exposure variables e.g. space allowance) (Specific scenarios)

## **--> Expert Knowledge Elicitation exercise n.2**

# Expert Knowledge Elicitation exercise n.1

Methodology for identification of relevant welfare consequences per each husbandry system/transport scenario (Common ToRs)

- Structured approach (EKE exercise) for identification of relevant welfare consequences (about 5 per each husbandry system)
- based on the assessment by expert opinion of **duration X severity X occurrence**

## Steps:

- Identify clearly not relevant and non-applicable individually by WG experts (green and grey)
- Consensus (group) judgment
- Identification of clearly relevant (red)
- Final ranking of less relevant (yellow)

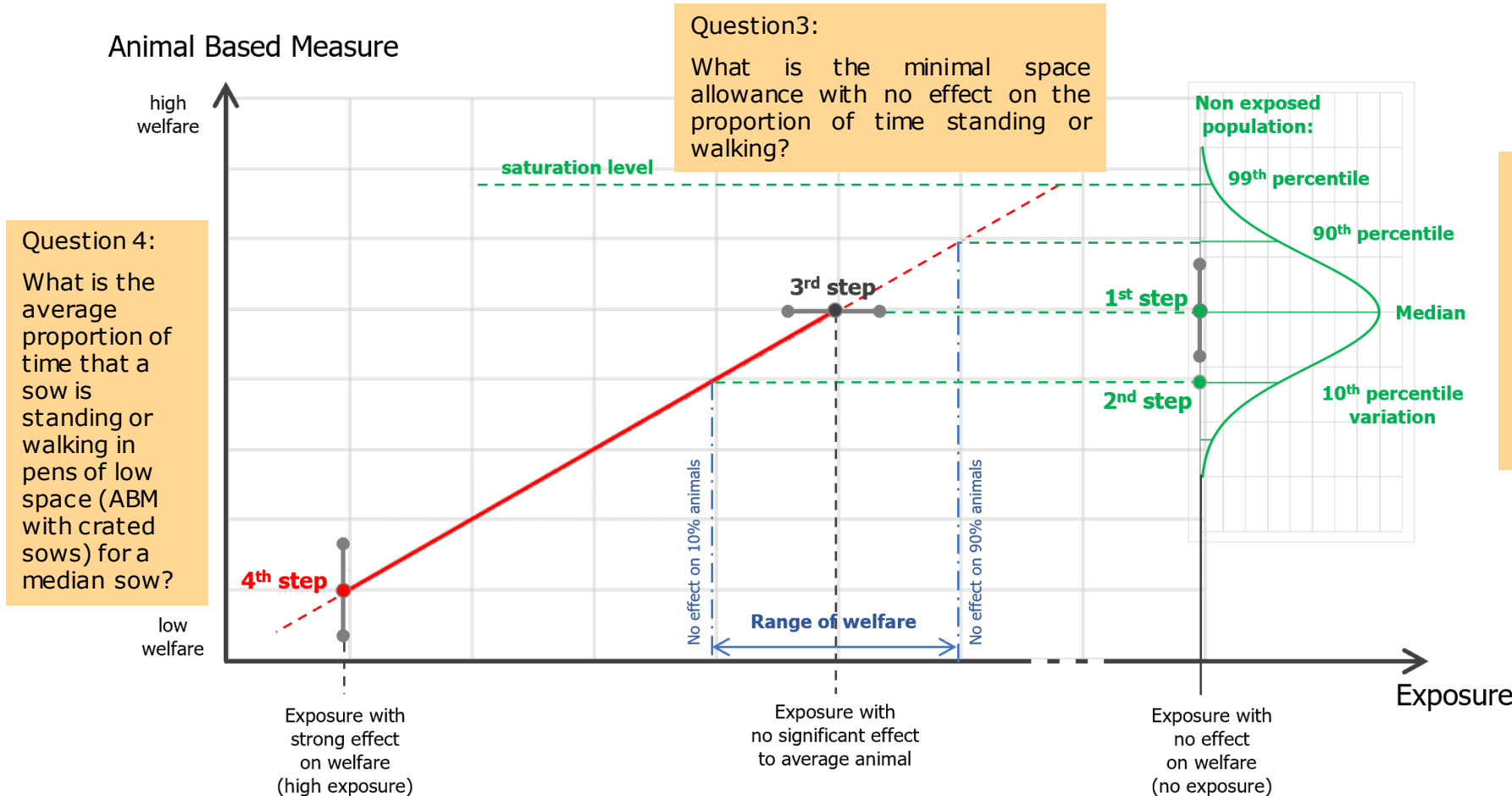
Animal species		Broilers		
Mode of transport		Road		
Stage of transport		Loading and unloading (incl catching, crating and removing from crate)		
Code	1	Clearly relevant		
	32	Clearly not relevant		
	33	Not applicable		
	2 to 31	Less relevant		VVV
ID	Abbr	Welfare Consequence	Ranking	Binding
B05	HNL	Handling stress	1	3
H06	SKL	Skin lesions and wounds	1	0
H08	BNL	Bone lesions (incl. fractures and dislocations)	1	0
B01	MOV	Restriction of movement	3	1
B04	VAS	Stress from visual and/or auditory stimuli	7	1
H03	HEA	Heat stress	9	2
H04	CLD	Cold stress	9	0
B06	MOS	Motion stress	10	1
B02	RSP	Resting problems	20	1
H05	LOC	Locomotor disorders (including lameness)	30	1
H01	HNG	Prolonged hunger	32	5
H02	H2O	Prolonged thirst	32	0
H11	EYE	Eye disorders	32	0
H15	MTB	Metabolic disorders	32	0
H16	MUS	Muscle disorders	32	0
B03	SCS	Group stress	33	19
B07	ISO	Isolation stress	33	0
B08	SEP	Separation stress	33	0
B09	CMF	Inability to perform comfort behaviour	33	0
B10	WSX	Inability to perform sexual behaviour	33	0
B11	USX	Inability to avoid unwanted sexual behaviour	33	0
B12	EXP	Inability to perform exploratory or foraging behaviour	33	0
B13	MAT	Inability to express maternal behaviour	33	0
B14	SUC	Inability to perform sucking behaviour	33	0
B15	CHW	Inability to chew and ruminate	33	0
B16	PLY	Inability to perform play behaviour	33	0
B17	PRS	Predator stress	33	0
H07	MAN	Pain resulting from management procedures	33	0
H09	SKD	Skin disorders (other than pododermatitis or skin lesi	33	0
H10	RES	Respiratory disorders	33	0
H12	GED	Gastro-enteric disorders	33	0
H13	RPD	Reproductive disorders	33	0
H14	MAS	Mastitis	33	0
H17	UMB	Umbilical disorders	33	0

# Expert Knowledge Elicitation exercise n.2

for quantitative criteria for specific scenarios

## For exposure variables e.g. space allowance for sows

Question 1:  
What is the average proportion of time that a sow is standing or walking in pens of unlimited space for a median sow?

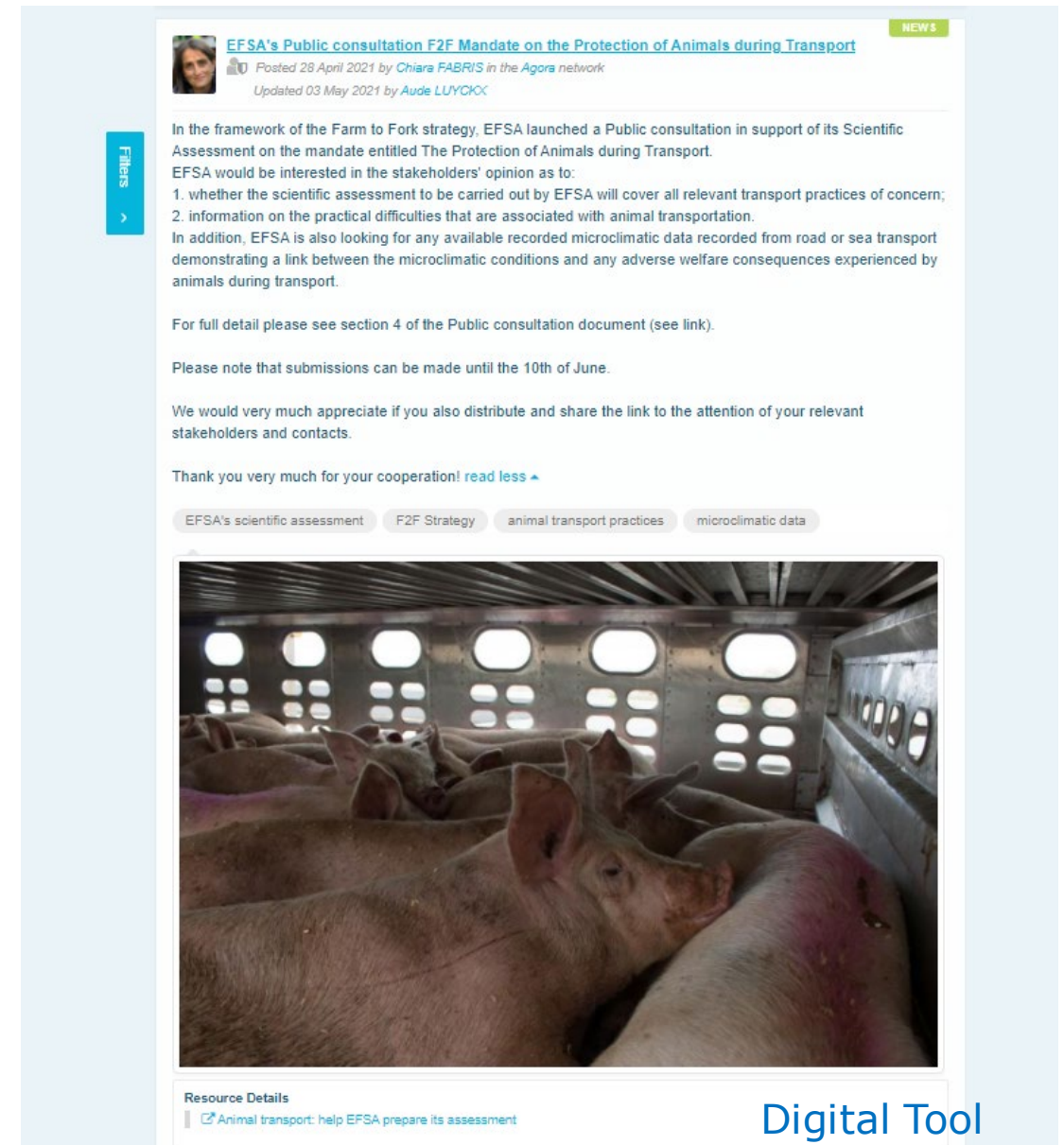




## 3. Public consultations

In line with new Transparency Regulation (EU 2019/1381), draft opinions are subject to public consultations:

- Transport (mandate and request for data): April-June 2021
- Pigs (draft content): summer 2021
- Broilers (draft content): autumn 2021
- Laying hens (draft content): autumn 2021
- Calves (draft content): beginning 2022



**EFSA's Public consultation F2F Mandate on the Protection of Animals during Transport** NEWS

Posted 28 April 2021 by Chiara FABRIS in the Agora network  
Updated 03 May 2021 by Aude LUYCKX

In the framework of the Farm to Fork strategy, EFSA launched a Public consultation in support of its Scientific Assessment on the mandate entitled The Protection of Animals during Transport. EFSA would be interested in the stakeholders' opinion as to:

1. whether the scientific assessment to be carried out by EFSA will cover all relevant transport practices of concern;
2. information on the practical difficulties that are associated with animal transportation.

In addition, EFSA is also looking for any available recorded microclimatic data recorded from road or sea transport demonstrating a link between the microclimatic conditions and any adverse welfare consequences experienced by animals during transport.


For full detail please see section 4 of the Public consultation document (see link).

Please note that submissions can be made until the 10th of June.

We would very much appreciate if you also distribute and share the link to the attention of your relevant stakeholders and contacts.

Thank you very much for your cooperation! [read less](#)

EFSA's scientific assessment F2F Strategy animal transport practices microclimatic data



**Resource Details**  
[Animal transport: help EFSA prepare its assessment](#)

Digital Tool

## 4. Farm-to-Fork Mandates - request for a SO on the protection of farmed ducks, geese and quail

EFSA is requested to provide a sound scientific basis for future legislative proposals **on the impact of the caged-systems** on the welfare of:

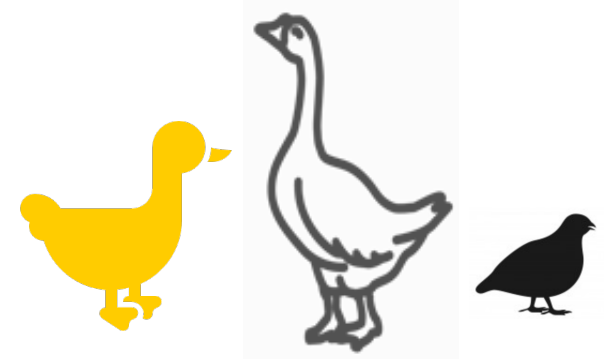
1. domestic **ducks** (species *anas platyrhynchos*), muscovy ducks (species *cairina moschata*) and hybrids domestic and muscovy ducks,
2. **geese** (*anser anser f. domesticus*, *anser cygnoides f. domesticus*) and their crossbreeds,
3. commonly farmed **quail** (family Phasianidae, e.g. species Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) and Japanese quail (*Coturnix japonica*), and family Odontophoridae),

used for **farming purposes**: production of meat (including foie gras), production of eggs, breeding

- The request is targeted to the specific issue of cages
- The process of collecting feathers and downs, the process of force-feeding for fatty liver production, the transport and the killing of the animals are not part of this request.

### Background

The European Citizen Initiative (ECI) "**end of the cage age**", calls for banning the use of cages amongst others for ducks, geese and quails.



➤ Deadline: **March 2023**

# Request for a SO on the protection of farmed ducks, geese and quail - ToRs

For each species and category of animals:

- ✓ Describe, the **main husbandry systems** with a focus **on the accommodation currently used in the EU** for keeping these animals;
- ✓ Describe the **relevant welfare consequences** related to these husbandry systems, concerning:
  - Restriction of movement
  - Injuries
  - Group stress
  - Inability to perform comfort behavior

Relevance will **not be based on a full risk assessment but on EFSA's expert opinion** regarding the severity, duration and occurrence of each welfare consequence

- ✓ Provide **recommendations on qualitative or quantitative criteria** to prevent the negative welfare consequences listed above in relation to:
  - space allowance (three-dimensional) per animal,
  - maximum size of the group,
  - floor quality,
  - availability, design and size of nesting facilities,
  - enrichment provided (including access to water to fulfil biological needs)

  
**Joint EFSA/EC  
questionnaire to MSs**



## 5. EFSA Network activities on AW – 2021

1. EFSA's **AHAW Network** consists of **nationally appointed EU MS organisations with scientific expertise** in the fields of Animal Health and Animal Welfare
2. EFSA's Network of the **National Contact Points (NCPs) for scientific support under Art. 20, Council Reg. (EC) No 1099/2009**
  - Networks are chaired and supported by the AHAW Team of EFSA
  - Their aim is to **facilitate scientific cooperation** in the field of AW, by: coordinating activities, **exchanging of information**, developing and implementing joint projects, exchanging expertise and best practices

### AW Network meeting (28-29/06/2021):

preparatory exercise for F2F SOs on ABMs at slaughter - **pigs and calves**

### Scientific NCPs Network meeting (5-6/10/2021):

preparatory exercise for F2F SOs on ABMs at slaughter - **broilers and laying hens**



## 'The assessment of Animal Based Measures collected in slaughterhouses to monitor the level of welfare on farms'

### ANNEX 1. QUESTIONNAIRE ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION OF CULL SOWS AND SLAUGHTER PIGS

ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION OF CULL SOWS AND SLAUGHTER PIGS							
➤ please indicate in the table if differences (or different ABMs) between sows and slaughter pigs are collected							
ABM	DESCRIPTION	IS THIS ABM ALREADY USED IN YOUR COUNTRY?	IF SO, WHICH SCORING SYSTEM DO YOU USE?			EASINESS OF USE	CORRESPONDING WELFARE CONSEQUENCE ON FARM
			Please specify which scoring system is in place in your country and how is it scored; specify if this scoring is used under official or voluntary controls				
		Please answer (Yes/No) and specify if it relates to official controls (CA) or private voluntary schemes (FBO)	Scoring method 1 - Total count of the affected animals (yes/no score)	Scoring method 2 - More sophisticated way for scoring the ABMs, e.g. scored according to: - type (e.g. swelling for lameness) - location (leg or hoof/claw for lameness) - severity (lameness score for lameness)	Scoring method 3 - other scoring method (please detail it)	Please estimate if the use of this ABM is:  easy-medium-difficult	In your view, what welfare problem on farm does this ABM indicate? e.g. group stress, inability to perform exploratory behaviour
Tail lesions	Lesions to the tail, ranging from bruises to mild bite marks, with or without puncture of the skin, up to a complete tail loss						
Ear lesions	Ear damage resulting from injury or necrosis' at a younger age						
Lameness	Inability to use one or more						

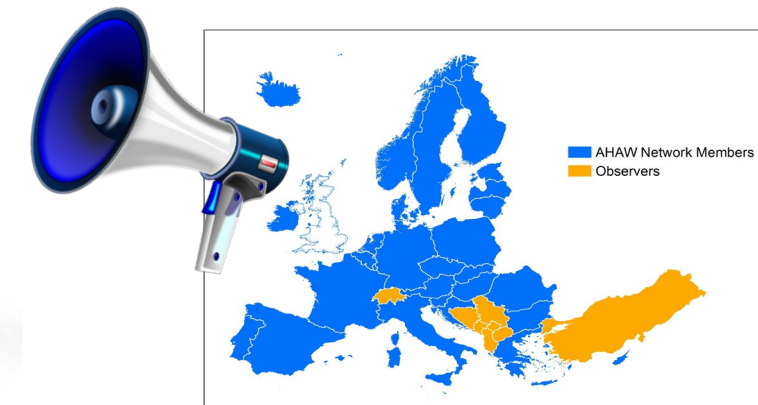
Questionnaires sent to MSs' representatives on pigs and calves (ante- and post-mortem) prior to the meeting

## Aim of the exercise during the Network meeting

Based on practical knowledge of Network Members:

- discuss and clarify the outcome of the questionnaires
- **classify/group the ABMs** currently used in MSs slaughterhouses (i.e, similar ABMs will be grouped together),
- identify those ABMs that are **more suitable in terms of easiness of use**, (easy-medium-difficult),
- **harmonise the scoring systems** used to assess the ABMs,
- agree on **which welfare consequences on farm can be reflected by the ABMs** assessed at slaughterhouses,
- **collect info on the validity** of each ABM to assess the welfare on farm (how **reliable** this ABM is to reflect the welfare status of the animal on farm).

- Two separate exercises will be held, for pigs (cull sows and slaughter pigs) and calves.



# 6. EFSA's SPIDO project (Science Studies and Project Identification & Development Office)

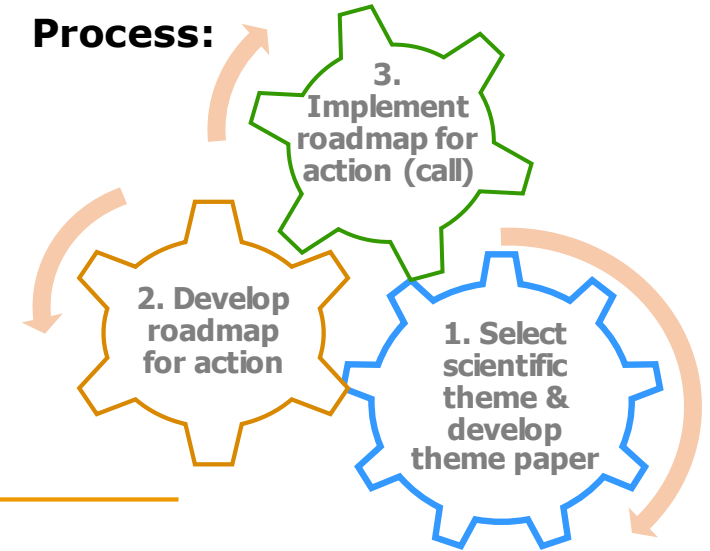
Based on Transparency Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 (Art. 32d)

### Goals:

- Address **knowledge gaps** to ensure **preparedness** for EFSA's future RA and **strengthen** RA methodologies
- Enhance EFSA's capacity building and build **partnerships**

### Resources:

- Multi-annual, multi-partner, multi-million and high-value scientific **grant** (co-funding) and **procurement projects**



- Workshop to discuss the relevance of the proposed Theme: 30.06.2021
- Possible selection of the Theme: 2021
- Possible launch of the Procurement roadmap: 2022
- Possible implementation of the roadmap and launch of the project Procurement: end 2022/beginning 2023

### [Call for scientific and technical support | European Food Safety Authority \(europa.eu\)](#)



English  [


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## Call for scientific and technical support

### Various Scientific Profiles

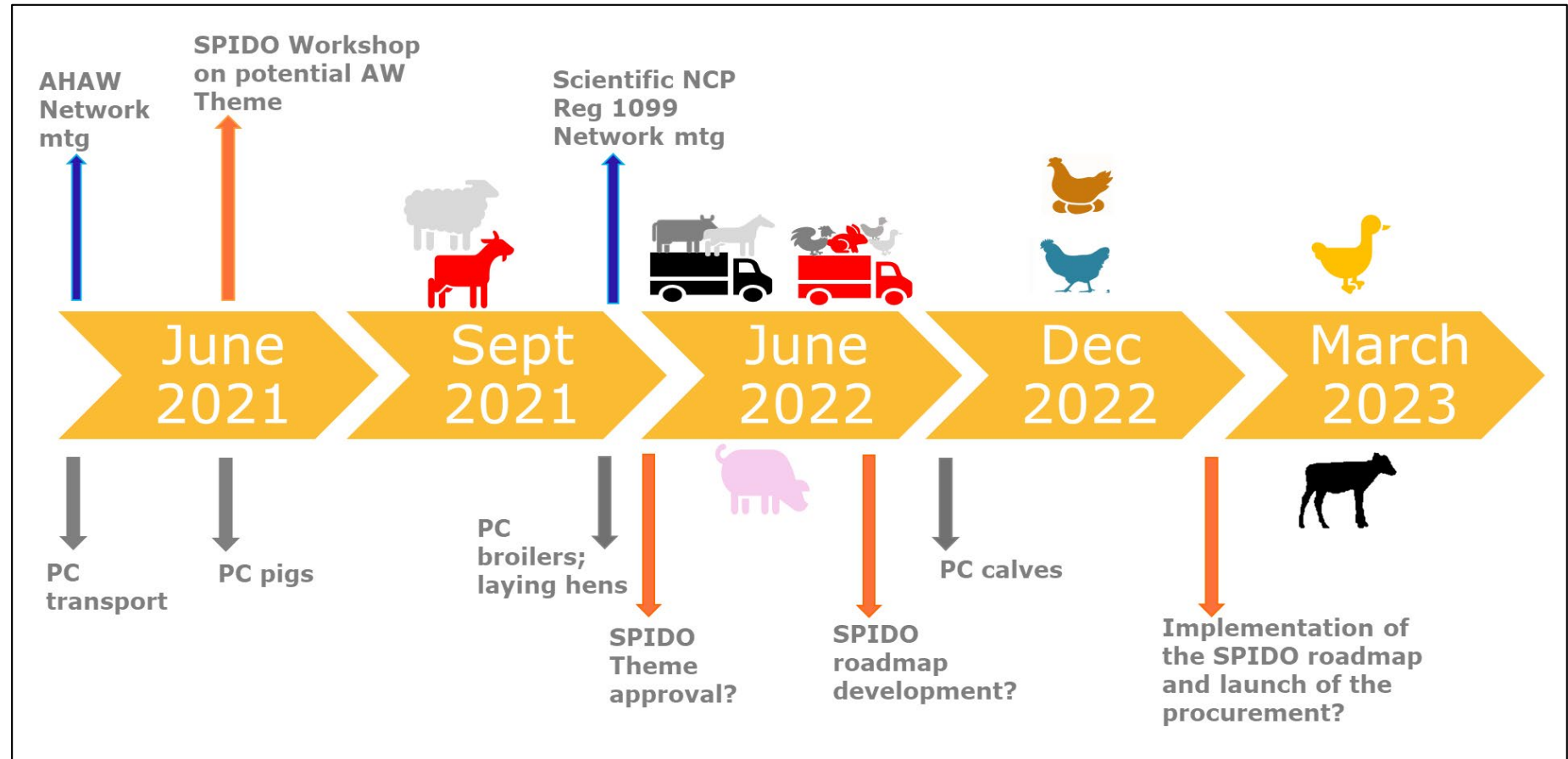
EFSA is establishing a list of scientists to assist its units in carrying out the preparatory work for scientific outputs in the areas of Animal Health and Animal Welfare, Biological hazards and Chemical contaminants, Pesticides, Plant health, Genetically Modified Organisms, Food Additives, Food Contact Materials, Food Enzymes, Feed additives, Novel Foods and Nutrition. In most cases, these support tasks will be carried out remotely and the results delivered electronically. In certain cases, EFSA may request that specific tasks are carried out at EFSA premises. To find out more, please consult the documents below or visit our [Careers section](#).

- [Notice of call for expressions of interest: Scientific and Technical Support in the area of the assessment of Animal Health and Animal Welfare, Biological hazards and Chemical contaminants, Pesticides, Plant health, Genetically Modified Organisms, Food Additives, Food Contact Materials, Food Enzymes, Feed additives, Novel Foods and Nutrition](#) 

[Draft contract](#) 



# Overall timelines for activities on AW (Slaughter + F2F + Public consultations + Scientific Networks + SPIDO + ISA)



ISA call

**THANK YOU!**

**EFSA AW landing page: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/animal-welfare>**



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