



Animal welfare within the Farm to Fork strategy

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European
Commission

Animal Welfare and sustainable food systems



“European food should become the global standard for sustainability.”

“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”

*“EU trade policy should continue to contribute to enhance cooperation with and to obtain ambitious commitments from third countries in **key areas such as animal welfare**, the use of pesticides and the fight against **antimicrobial resistance**.”*

Main animal welfare objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F)



- The main animal welfare objective of the F2F is to review the EU legislation to align it with the general sustainability goals.
- The content and scope of this revision will be defined on the basis of the evaluation of the legislation (“fitness check”).
- The Commission will also consider options for animal welfare labelling to contribute to a sustainable consumption.

The F2F draft action plan

Evaluation and revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and slaughter of animals

**Q4
2023**

Why? To align the EU legislation to the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.

Proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices

2024

How we will achieve this?

The tentative work program

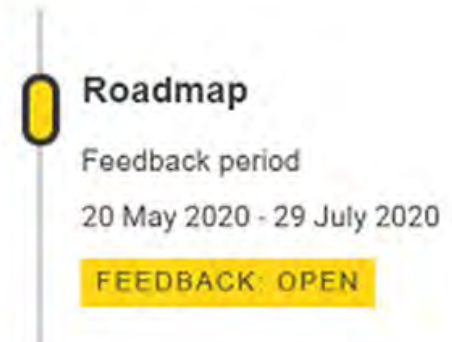
- The first step is to achieve the evaluation of the legislation (**fitness check**). It has already started with the publication of the roadmap on 20/5/2020.
- The **fitness check** will be concluded with a **staff working document** by the end of 2021 or early 2022.
- The plan is to start the **impact assessment** and the **legal drafting** from that date in order to adopt legislative proposals (if needed) by the **end of 2023**.

Purpose of the Fitness Check

- Obtain solid evidence through stakeholders' consultation, literature research, audit reports, and relevant studies – including the results of the evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy.
- Assess e.g. the extent to which the legislation is still relevant to pursue the objective of ensuring a high level of animal welfare in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy.

State of play of the Fitness Check

- Roadmap open for public feedback until 29 July 2020:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12400-Fitness-Check-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare>
- Examples of steps to follow:
 - targeted consultation activities
 - a 12 weeks public on-line consultation
 - a stakeholder conference.
- The EU Platform on Animal Welfare will also be used where relevant to complement the consultation process.



Animal Welfare Labelling

Animal welfare labelling could contribute to the objective of the Farm to Fork strategy as part of a proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework, to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices (target date: 2024).



Animal Welfare Labelling: proposed work plan



- Propose to create a subgroup on animal welfare labelling to assist the Commission in collecting data and opinions on this issue in the framework of the Animal Welfare Platform.
- To organise a specific external study to explore the different options for animal welfare labelling by the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021.
- To decide the approach once the options will be available by the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022.

The scientific update: EFSA mandates for AW

Mandate	Agreed deadline
Transport	June 2022
Pigs	June 2022
Broilers	December 2022
Laying hens	December 2022
Calves	March 2023

Main point of reflection

What further action (legislative and non-legislative) might be necessary to align the EU's animal welfare objectives to the sustainability goals of the Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork Strategy?

Conclusions

- Around 3 years of work ahead with the active contributions of main stakeholders
- Scientific updates necessary considering the sustainability of farming activities
- Potential important reform for all the EU legislation on AW
- Scenario open to several approaches contributing to the sustainability agenda in F2F
- Potential effects on international and trade policies on AW