

# Meeting of the sub-group on poultry

First meeting, 23 March 2022

(Videoconference)

– MINUTES –

## Attendance

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<b>Independent expert</b>	Leonardo James Vinco Evangelia N. Sossidou
<b>Civil society organisations</b>	Eurogroup for animals (EfA)
<b>Business and professional organisations</b>	AVEC COPA (connection difficulties) FVE
<b>Member States</b>	Czech Republic Denmark Spain Norway
<b>European Commission</b>	SANTE G5 SANTE F2
<b>Guest(s)</b>	EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

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## Discussions

### 1. Context, mandate and timeframe by the Commission

The Commission presented the general context and the mandate of the work of the subgroup, referring in particular to the Farm to Fork Strategy and the European citizens' initiative "End the Cage Age".

In May 2020, in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission decided to revise the animal welfare legislation including the general farming directive 98/58/EC and the specific directives on the welfare of laying hens (1999/74/EC) and on the welfare of chickens kept for meat production (2007/43/EC). As a follow up, in July 2021, the Commission published an inception impact assessment on

the revision of the legislation on animal welfare: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare-\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare-_en)

The inception impact assessment presents options for that revision, including on the protection of poultry. The legislative proposal is planned to be adopted by the last quarter of 2023. The subgroup will meet around ten times on a monthly basis (half-day meetings).

## **2. Roundtable**

The members of the subgroup, guests and Commission officials attending the meeting presented their background and relevant experience in relation to the work of the subgroup.

## **3. Presentation on the Digital Tool**

The Commission presented the functions of the digital tool created to exchange information between the members of the group. It explained how members of the subgroup can directly upload documents for this purpose.

## **4. Working plan and working method of the subgroup and topics for discussion**

The Commission presented the proposed working method of the subgroup:

- The group will work under the Chatham House rule, i.e. participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
- Experts were appointed on a personal basis due to their expertise even if they were proposed by organisations. They are free to express their personal opinion and are not expected to speak on behalf of their organisation. Consequently, they have no possibility to be replaced by someone else.
- The sub-group will not produce any output document. Therefore, no agreement on positions and views is needed

The members may propose guests to present their expertise on a particular option since some relevant stakeholders or experts might not be present for a specific issue to be discussed.

The Commission specified that the role of the subgroup is not to decide or to conclude on policy options but rather analyse the options and their impacts as well as to contribute to the future legislation by providing ideas. The subgroup will not suggest any legal drafting. In each meeting the Commission will give an introduction on the currently applicable EU requirements followed by a presentation (10-20 minutes) on the topics by one or more subgroup members. The group will then discuss potential impacts of different options providing their views and experience.

The Commission presented the list of topics defined by the inception impact assessment and asked about volunteers to present the topics in the subgroup meetings. After discussion, the subgroup agreed on the topics to be addressed, the assignments and the order of their examination (see Annex). It was agreed that the second meeting will be dedicated to the topic addressing breeding (presentation by AVEC together with E. Sossidou and Denmark) and the topic regarding the phasing out of cages (presentation by EfA). The third meeting will address the five domains (presentation by EfA).

## **5. Calendar for the next meetings**

The subgroup agreed to have the  
2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on Thursday, 28 April 2022, 14:30-17:30 (online),  
3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on Thursday, 19 May, 9:30-12:30 (physical in Brussels) and  
4<sup>th</sup> meeting either on 7 June or on 21 June, 14:30-17:30 (tbc; online).

### **Topics to be discussed in the subgroup on poultry and assignments**

- In the order of priority as discussed and open to amendment -
- 1. Develop ways to decrease negative impacts of selective breeding on the welfare of animals (AVEC together with E. Sossidou and Denmark)
- 2. Prohibition of cages (all poultry species and categories of the ECI 'End the Cage Age') (EfA)
- 3. Addressing the five domains
- 4. Training requirements for animal handlers (skills and competences) (FVE together with AVEC)
- 5. Mandatory/ voluntary animal based indicators (Norway together with AVEC and Denmark)
- 6. Monitoring, measuring and reporting tools (Norway)
- 7. Outdoor access, fresh air, light and environmental enrichment (Eva Sossidou)
- 8. Space allowance (floor and height) (EfA)
- 9. Mutilations (EfA)
- 10. Requirements for Standard Operational Procedures (SOP)

The information and discussion of all topics will include,

- alignment with other legislation (e.g. animal health, organic, marketing standards, environmental);
- chickens (layers and broilers with all ages and production types, including pullets and breeders), where possible also ducks, geese, quail and turkeys;
- Clarification of terminology, definitions and requirements of the current legislation (*Spain*);
- Need for and length of transitional periods.