

Work of the Subgroup on the welfare of pigs of the EU Platform on animal welfare 1st half 2022

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Mandate of the Subgroup

Consultative nature (Better Regulation)

Scope

- Expertise to improve the welfare at farm level for all pig categories
- Goals of 'Farm to Fork' strategy and ECI 'End the cage age'
- Mutilations
- International implications

Objectives

- Examine options of IIA & explore additional options for a legislative proposal
- Review existing legal provisions

Work of the Subgroup

3 meetings already

- 30.3.2022 - Working methods
- 19.5.2022 - Free farrowing
- 27.6.2022 - Tail docking

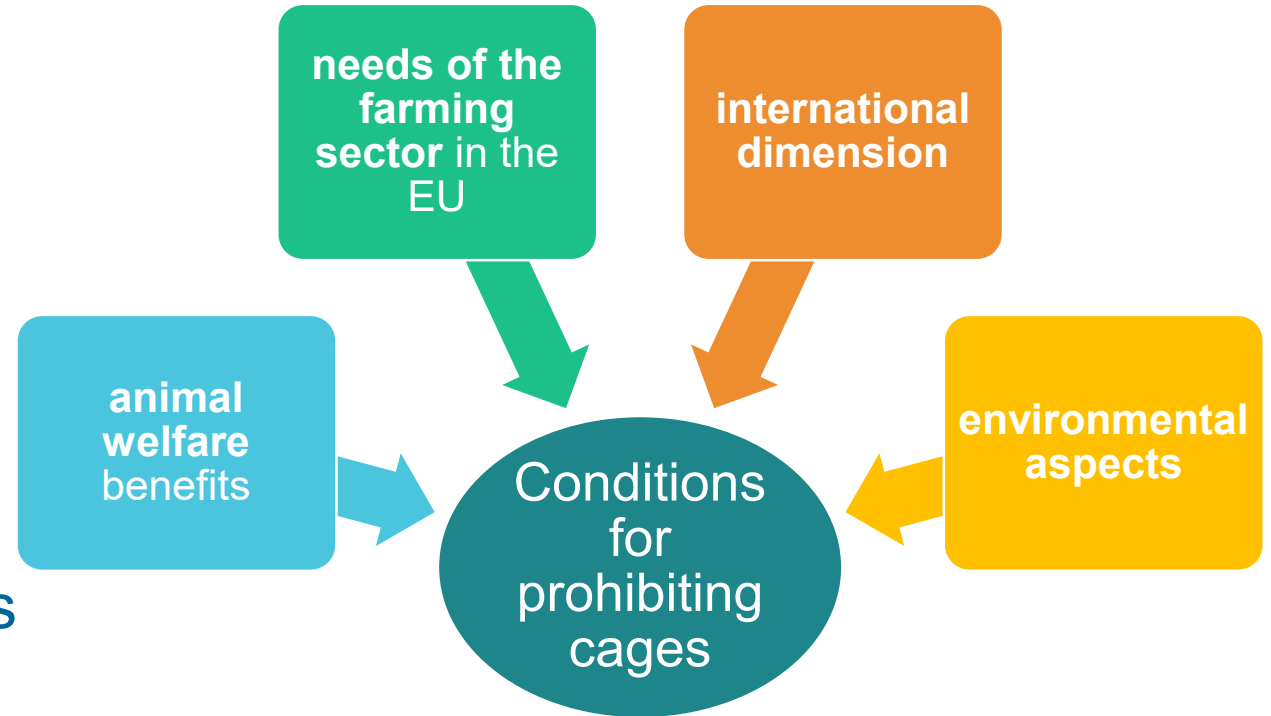
Future meetings

- 5.7.2022 Castration
- September - Space allowances & floors
- October - Animal based indicators
- November
- December

Free farrowing - Inception Impact Assessment

The prohibition of cages will contribute to resolving 2 problems:

- update legislation in the light of **scientific evidence**, ensuring a higher level of **animal welfare**
- meet expectations of parts of **citizens and consumers** in terms of protection of animals



Free farrowing - options

Zero confinement (ZC)

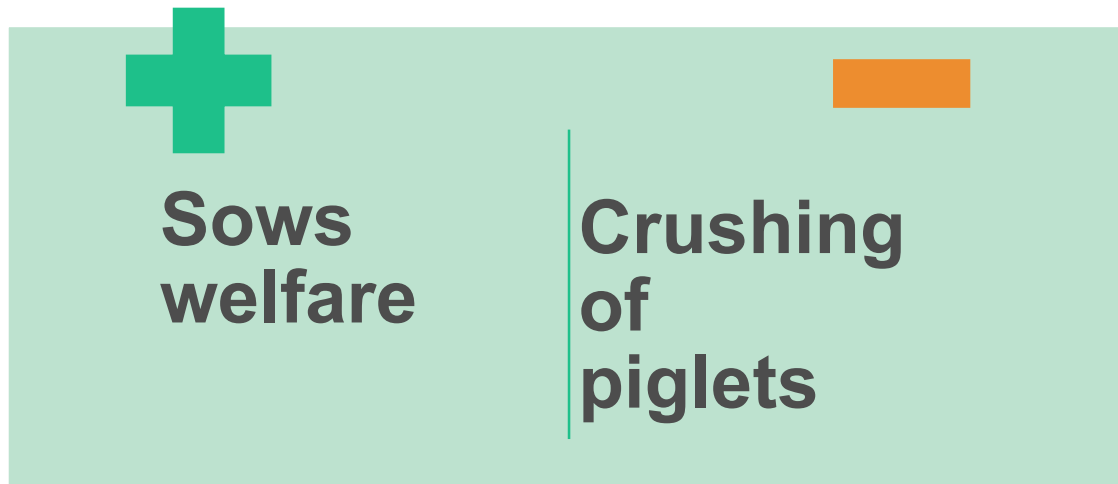
Temporary confinement when needed (TCn)

Regular temporary confinement (TCr)

- Opening up existing farrowing crates does not consist an option
- Temporary confinement (TC) options different from crates
- TC options do not differ in construction but management

Free farrowing - impact

- **Animal welfare**

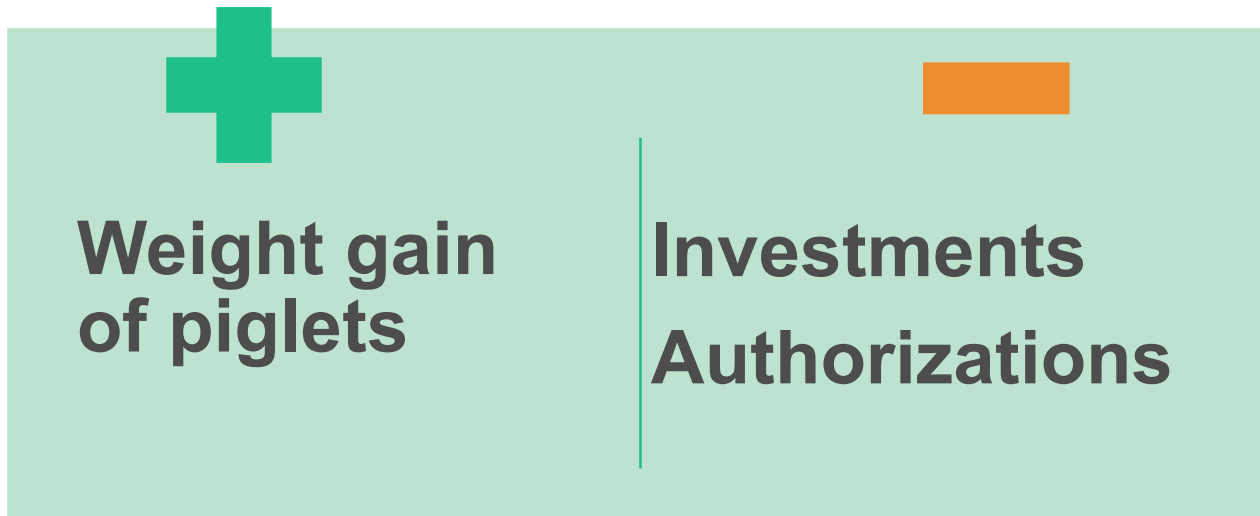


Mitigation of risks to piglets:

- Temporary confinement (?)
- Recognize & manage killer sows -
Learn to assess the risks
- Sows health
- Genetics : litter size and maternal behaviour
- Pen construction/temperature difference

Free farrowing - impact

- **Farmers**



Investments compared to existing system

- More space
- Type of floor & slurry system
- *Confinement area (similar cost for TC)*

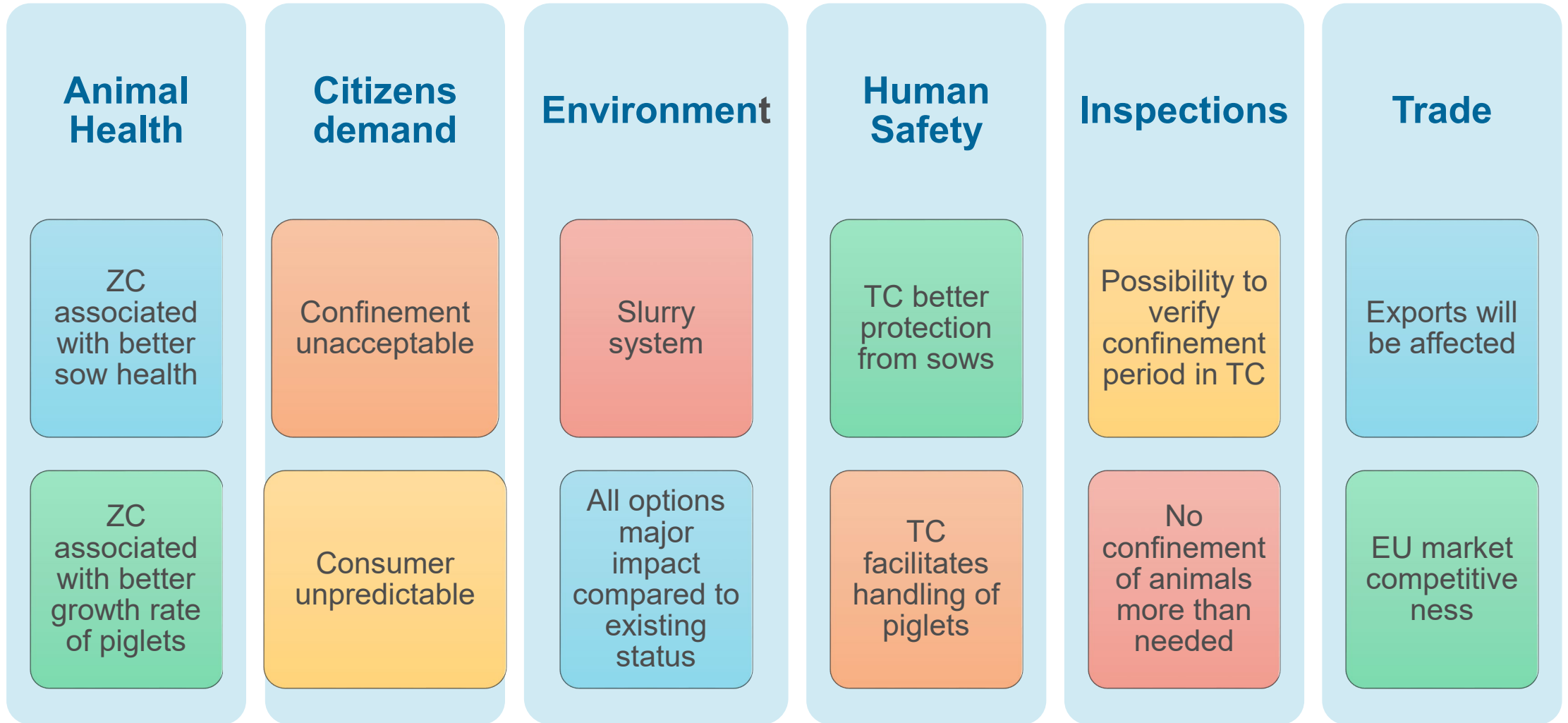
Mitigation of negative impacts:

- Smooth transition (6m – 2y)
- Subsidies (in some MS)
- Training

** Running costs

- Labour cost and number of staff is similar among the 3 options

Free farrowing - impact

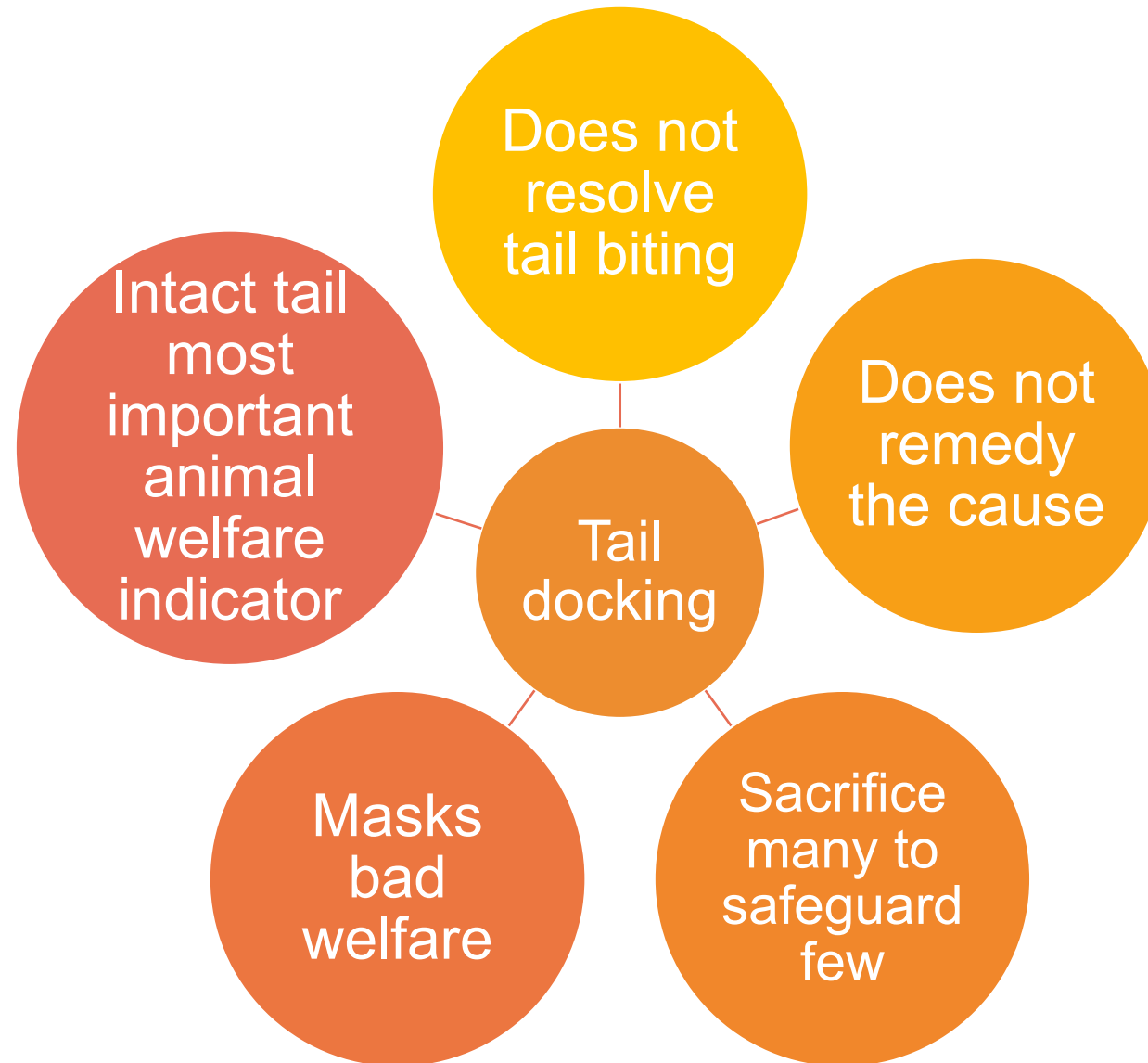


Tail docking - Inception Impact Assessment

Proposed 2 policy options for resolving **2 problems**:

- update legislation in the light of **scientific evidence**, technological and societal developments
- enforce **specific, updated and detailed requirements** resulting in an adequate level of protection of animal welfare

Tail docking - why it does not work



Tail docking - lessons

Feed quality
and
composition

Feed
availability
(1 feeder per 4-5 pigs
ad libitum)

Health status
(in particular PRRS)

Enrichment
material

(efficiency,
alternatives,
emergency response)

Environmental
conditions

Genetics
(care adapted to
breed)

Motivation of
farmers

(role of vet / visits to
other farms)

Training of
farmers

(trials in indicator
pens)

General rules

- Management of chronic and acute risk factors
- Measures tailored to farms
- Mindset of farmers
- Intact tails as animal welfare measure – in practice

Tail docking - policy options in IIA

1. Prohibition (IIA)

2. Additional restrictions on tail docking (IIA)

Potential Additional measures for option 2

- Documentation to justify tail docking from birth to slaughter + purchase of pigs
- Increase of space allowance
- Risk assessments followed by action plans
- Training of farmers

Observations for both options

- Should be complemented by prohibition of rearing docked pigs
- Fattening holdings should take responsibility
- CA should be able to verify risk assessment, improvement measures, statements by farms
- Official vets should be specialised

Tail docking - new policy option

3. Legal provision similar to Art. 3 Dir. 2007/43/EC
Stocking density

- Minimum requirement for space allowance + derogation from minimum requirement **if** all pigs are **undocked** and **less than X% tail lesions** at slaughter

Pros

- Economic incentive for farmers
- Demand for intact pigs
- Stocking density easily verifiable by CA
- Quicker than a total ban

Considerations

- Does not consist a total ban
- Tail lesions should be assessed in a harmonised manner

Experience of Italy

- 15-20% farms compliant with legislation
- Main factor that played a role – **official controls** and awareness of official vets (60%)
- **Training** (20%)
- **Initiatives** to promote animal welfare e.g. labelling scheme (10%)
- Measures through cross compliance (10%)
- Classyfarm system

Thank you for your attention

& thanks to Subgroup members for their work