

Meeting of the sub-group on the welfare of pigs

First meeting, 31 March 2022

(Videoconference)

– MINUTES –

Attendance

Independent expert	Anna Valros Anne-Claire Berensten
Civil society organisations	CIWF
Business and professional organisations	COGECA FVE UECBV
Member States	Denmark Germany (excused) Italy Sweden
European Commission	DG SANTE G5
Guest	European Reference Centre for the Welfare of pigs

Discussions

1. Context, mandate and timeframe by the Commission

The Commission presented the general context of the work of the subgroup, referring in particular to the Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Citizen Initiative “End the cage age”. The proposal to revise the legislation is planned to be available for the last quarter 2023. This group will meet monthly (outside summer holidays).

2. Roundtable: position, background, interests and experience

Each member of the group presented his/her background and relevant experience in relation to the work of the subgroup, as well as the guest and the Commission officials attending the meeting.

3. Discussion on the sub-group mandate and working method

The Commission presented the mandate of the subgroup, which is to explore the options identified in the inception impact assessment on the revision of the animal welfare legislation (published in July 2021).

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. The subgroup will not suggest any legal drafting.

The minutes will reflect the subjects of the discussion and the possible agreement/disagreement.

The subgroup will work on the basis of the Chatham house rule. Each person was appointed on a personal basis and no one is expected to speak on behalf of their organisation.

4. Presentation on the Digital Tool

The Commission presented the digital tool and how members can directly upload documents to share between group members.

5. Assignments of topics and tasks

The Commission presented the five priority topics to be discussed and asked who can volunteer for presenting them for the following meetings.

The following assignments were agreed:

1. Housing of sows and gilts (ban of cages) UECBV and Sweden
2. Tail docking and tooth clipping/grinding: Anna Valros and Italy
3. Castration: Denmark
4. Space allowances and floors: Anne-Claire Berentsen
5. Animal based indicators: to be decided

6. Calendar for the next meetings

The next meeting will take place on April after consultation by Doodle.
The subgroup agreed to meet on 19 May AM and 27 June PM.