

Meeting of the sub-group on poultry

Nineth meeting, 01 December 2022

(Videoconference)

– MINUTES –

Attendance

Independent expert	Leonardo James Vinco Evangelia N. Sossidou
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Civil society organisations	Eurogroup for animals (EfA)
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Business and professional organisations	AVEC COPA FVE
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Member States	Czech Republic Denmark Spain Norway
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European Commission	SANTE G3
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Guest(s)	Contractor for IA Study
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Topic: Current legal provisions relevant for the welfare of poultry (Screening of the current legislation)

1. Welcome to the meeting.

The Chair welcomed all participants and introduced the topic.

2. Context of the topic by the Commission

The Chair explained the context with the current EU legislation leading to differences in the implementation of the obligations by Member States and the difficulties to enforce due to vagueness and room for interpretation.

3. Presentation by Spain “Some thoughts on terminology used in AW legislation”.

The presenter summarised the terms open to interpretation relevant for poultry in the current EU legal legislation. In particular, the presenter referred to the use of:

- non-defined terms (e.g., cage, breeding).
- vague or imprecise terms (e.g., enough, sufficient, adequate, ‘unnecessary pain, suffering or injury’, ‘alternative systems’, ‘owner of the animal’), often used because of lack of scientific information or agreement during negotiations.
- terms with different definitions or outdated, and terms not well defined or with room for legal interpretation, in some cases having different definitions for the same word in different pieces of legislation (e.g., poultry, chicks, ‘experimental or laboratory animals’, ‘animals used for scientific purposes’) that could lead to confusion.

The presenter also highlighted the need of consistency with definitions in the WOAH Terrestrial Code (e.g., broiler, slaughter).

4. Discussion

Following the presentation by Spain on the terms open to interpretation in the current legislation, the subgroup discussed the provisions of the three relevant Directives (Council Directives 2007/43/EC, 1999/74/EC and 98/58/EC). Participants provided with suggestions for more concrete rules.

5. Next meetings

Next meeting: **Monday, 30 January 2023**: (9:00-12:30)

Topic: screening of the current legislation (continuation)