



European
Commission

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EU Platform on Animal Welfare Seventh meeting

WebEx video conference

Monday 15 June 2020, 09.30 – 17.30 CET, Brussels time

The meeting was web streamed. Click [here](#) to access the recording.

– MINUTES –

Opening by Chair Anne Bucher, Director General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave indications on the use of the WebEx settings. The agenda was adopted with no further comments.

Croatian Presidency presentation on the illegal trade of pet animals

Branka Buković Šošić, senior advisor-specialist from the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The presentation addressed, among others, legal requirements in Croatia for the identification, breed and sale of dogs, cats and ferrets; requirements for selling these in pet shops, conditions for their advertisement and public awareness.

The Chair acknowledged the importance of addressing the issue of illegal trade of pet animals.

Animal welfare within the Farm to Fork Strategy

Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit, Directorate Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The main animal welfare objectives of the strategy are the revision of the EU legislation. It will play part in the general sustainability goals and the consideration of animal welfare labelling to contribute to a more sustainable food consumption.

The exercise of reviewing the EU legislation includes a fitness check on the acquis on animal welfare, which will conclude with a staff working document. If need be, this will lead to an impact assessment and legislative proposals. The timing for the delivery of this exercise is expected to be the 4th quarter of 2023.

The roadmap of the fitness check was opened for public feedback from the 20 May 2020 to the 29 July 2020.

The Commission proposed to the Platform the creation of a subgroup on animal welfare labelling. This working group aims to assist the Commission in collecting and assessing data on the issue, which could improve information to consumers. The Commission is also working on an external study on the matter to start at the end of 2020, early 2021.

Once these assessments are carried out and in light of the results obtained, actions concerning animal welfare labelling will be taken. The foreseen time is late 2021, beginning of 2022.

In order to consider the latest scientific developments in the context of the exercises described above, the Commission requested EFSA to prepare a series of studies on animal transport, pig, calves, broilers and laying hens.

Speech by Commissioner Stella Kyriakides

Commissioner Kyriakides started her intervention by stressing the importance of animal welfare and by welcoming the adoption of the Farm to Fork Strategy. The strategy is a key contribution to a sustainable livestock production and to the need of change of our current farming system. A better balance between affordable food, food quality and better income to farmers is needed. Animal welfare plays an important role in this regard.

Commissioner Kyriakides presented the key animal welfare actions of the Farm to Fork Strategy. The Commission intends to revise the EU legislation on animal welfare, some of which were adopted more than 20 years ago. In order to do so a “fitness check” will take place in parallel to the evaluation of the past animal welfare strategy. The results of the two evaluations will be complementary. In addition, the Commission requested the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) scientific opinions covering each key pieces of legislation.

The Platform will be informed and will have the opportunity to participate to each step of this work.

Besides the fitness check, the Commission, in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, will also consider options for animal welfare labelling. There is a consensus among Member States to act in this area and a plan to launch a study this year to address possible options. Commissioner Kyriakides suggested the creation within the Platform of a subgroup on animal welfare labelling to support the Commission in collecting experiences and opinions.

The Commission will also continue the work done on enforcement, particularly on animal transport. The Commission is presently considering the harmonisation of inspections on livestock vessels through tertiary legislation based on the Official Controls Regulation. The process of designating a third EU reference centre dedicated to the welfare of ruminants and equines will also start this year. Commission services have also initiated a series of audits on how Member States define and implement their policy objectives on animal welfare.

Moreover, the Commission will initiate this year two major pilot projects proposed by the European Parliament on best practices and the promotion of alternative systems for laying hens and on the welfare of dairy cows. They will contribute in shaping the future policy in these fields.

Lastly, Commissioner Kyriakides referred to the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) under the competence of Commissioner Wojciechowski, as a mean to improve the welfare of animals.

Commissioner Kyriakides underlined the importance of the support to the Commission from the Platform in the work ahead.

Questions & Answers (8 interventions)

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) welcomed Commissioner's ambitious agenda and asked about her views on the Covid pandemic. CIWF's priority is the reduction of number of animals farmed so as to ensure their welfare.

AVEC asked about rules and standards on animal welfare for imported products in ensuring a level playing field with European producers.

Eurogroup for Animals stressed the need to ensure that the fitness check has a broad scope to protect those species not covered yet by current specific legislation, such as fish and cattle, and expressed their hopes that the EFSA mandates would extend to those species.

World Horse Welfare welcomed the European reference centre for equines and asked whether the Platform will have an extension until 2023.

CLITRAVI wondered whether the extra costs new regulations may entail, would be compensated or would the consumer, by means of paying a higher price, cover these.

Commissioner Kyriakides confirmed that the fitness check will be very broad and will cover many other areas not necessarily included under the scope of current legislation, including trade and consumption of wildlife but it will not cover companion animals. In terms of labelling, Council conclusions will be taken into account together with different experiences, including the one on labelling eggs, serving all these as a basis to establish a solid state of play. The role of the Platform was acknowledged and it will continue to play a key role in helping the Commission. The Commission is also working on ensuring appropriate resources to meet the ambitious targets.

COGECA asked whether legislation on transport will change and if so, COGECA would like to know the basis for such a change, stressing the investment already made by farmers to adapt to current welfare requirements.

European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) asked about the calendar for EFSA's contributions and how would they work with the European Reference Centres.

VIER PFOTEN International (VIER PFOTEN) hoped the work presented would not meet any delays, welcomed the initiatives mentioned and offered their support in the work ahead. Furthermore, they expressed their hopes that the recommendations and opinions adopted under the Platform will be taken into account in the analysis.

Ms Bucher, on whether legislation will change and on which basis, stressed existing demands to extend the scope of the current framework and the challenges encountered in implementing the current legislation. In order to update the scientific knowledge, EFSA's opinions are fundamental. The Commission is aware of the costs of implementation in these and many other areas in order to meet the objectives set in the Farm to Fork Strategy. The impact assessment will help in reaching a balance between all the relevant interests. As for the level playing field, the Commission will continue to enforce Framework Trade Agreements and cooperation agreements

supporting the convergence of farming practices and addressing these matters through the Green Diplomacy.

Mid-term findings of the evaluation of the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015

Stanislav Ralchev, Policy Officer, Unit 'Animal Health and Welfare', Directorate Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The evaluation started last year with a roadmap, after which the Commission launched a one-year study. This study is expected to be finalised in October this year. The open public consultation is ongoing and the deadline for participating has been extended for one week. After this exercise, a staff working document will be prepared.

Currently there are more than 1000 responses to the open public consultation, 500 of them were coordinated, and 8 ongoing case studies are being developed.

Mr Ralchev highlighted the following very preliminary findings:

- The Strategy correctly identified animal welfare needs in the EU.
- The main benefit of this strategy was the improved compliance due to enforcement actions. Some of them cost effective, others not.
- Both, synergies and gaps were identified.

As for the next steps, the final report will be submitted end of June, early July. A workshop with stakeholders will take place on 9 July 2020 (tbc).

Questions & Answers (15 interventions)

Denmark, on the presentation by Mr Gavinelli, asked whether the EFSA mandates will also cover Directive 98/58/EC. She stressed the need for specific legislation for species currently only covered by Directive 98/58/EC, and hoped that the fitness check should reflect this.

CIWF encouraged specific EU legislation for new species, such rabbits or fish. CIWF also supported labelling on method production and asked why slaughter is an area to be addressed in the context of the revision of the legislation.

Eurogroup for Animals welcomed information on labels on the method of production and suggested the inclusion of welfare indicators as a way forward. Also requested Commission's views on meeting the target of reducing 50% of the use of antibiotics.

Humane Society International/Europe (HSI/Europe) indicated a lack of coherence between the strategy and other policy areas (zoos, wild animals in captivity) and wondered how is this going to be improved. They underlined that Directive 98/58/EC is very inadequate and has led to practices which contravenes its provisions. They asked as well about the protocol to deal with coordinated responses in the context of an open public consultation.

Mr Gavinelli, on the issue of the scope of the fitness check, stressed its holistic nature in that it will address the entire sector and production chain, from the farm to the slaughter plant. It also includes the Directive 98/58/EC. He reminded about the recent EFSA scientific opinions on the welfare of rabbits and added that Directive 98/58/EC could be subject to a specific request to EFSA, should the fitness check indicate a need for this.

With regards to labelling, methods of farming and the evolution of this matter, it is connected with the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and all these will be taken into account when deciding on the next steps.

Wild animals will not be included as there is no mandate in the Treaty to support this inclusion. It is a relevant matter, though, in relation with other DGs such as DG ENVI.

Ms Bucher, on the sustainability framework, informed that evaluations in a number of areas are ongoing (Farm to Fork Strategy, studies, contributions from research, opinions...) and once the picture is clearer, the concept of sustainability can be brought to food systems and food legislation.

There is a section in the Farm to Fork Strategy on sustainable consumption, and labelling is part of it. There are several proposals to be discussed. Animal welfare needs a dedicated stream of work. As work progresses, the different options will be addressed.

On the target for AMR, many reductions have been achieved and the entry into force of the veterinary medicine packages will contribute to reach the goal.

European Dairy Association (EDA) asked how labelling could be articulated through private schemes.

Eurocommerce wondered whether initiatives to inform consumers, other than classical labelling, will be implemented. In particular, they mentioned digital labelling.

The Netherlands asked about the two pilot projects mentioned.

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) stressed the disruption COVID had for the supply chain and wondered how to ensure that the lessons learnt from the pandemic are taken into account and how could stakeholders contribute to this exercise. They stressed the need to apply the One Health perspective in this respect. FVE also asked whether the final report on the evaluation of the strategy will be publicly available and whether there will be a new strategy.

Latvia supported more non-legislative initiatives, such as labelling. Works on labelling should start as soon as possible. More resources from the CAP are needed to better promote animal welfare.

Ms Bucher and Mr Gavinelli, on COVID, informed there will be a lessons learnt exercise to see what needs to be changed and how to improve preparedness. The EU4Health programme reflects these matters. As for labelling, it was stressed that since this is linked to the methods of production, there is a link to the CAP that calls for a close cooperation on this matter.

On cost and incentives, there is a need for having a mix of legislative and non-legislative measures, incentives and obligations and in this regard, SANTE will work with AGRI to better implement the future CAP.

Mr Simonin, on the pilot projects, indicated that one of them is on best practices for alternative egg production systems, which includes the dissemination of the results to encourage producers to follow these alternative systems. The other one, on welfare of dairy cattle, addresses three aspects: good practices for the welfare of heifers, cows and calves; socioeconomic study on

transport of unweaned male dairy calves and economic models to prevent the transport of end-of-career dairy cows.

Mr Ralchev indicated that the final report of the evaluation would be published soon. The next steps will follow the result of the evaluation. On the treatment of coordinated responses to open public consultations, this follows concrete rules and procedures part of better regulation *tools*.

World Animal Protection (WAP) stressed their interest in ensuring there are resources allocated for the implementation of existing legislation. He asked when would the veterinary medicine legislation be implemented. Lastly, requested information on the infringement procedures opened last year for not respecting measures on docking tails.

European Federation of Animal Health Services (FESASS) highlighted that animal welfare is not a stand-alone issue and there needs to be a balance with other objectives, and that conflicts of interests should be considered. They wondered whether self-assessment of farmers would really be sufficient for control purposes.

CIWF underlined the importance of the new EU legislation on veterinary medicines, to apply from 2022, in tackling AMR. As examples were mentioned the new strict limitations on prophylactic use of antimicrobials, currently representing 70% of the use of antimicrobials in farming (in light of which, the 50% reduction target in the Farm to Fork Strategy appeared as too modest).

COPA welcomed the Farm to Fork Strategy, and reminded about the high level of animal welfare in Europe and the great efforts made by the industry during the COVID crisis. They asked how current animal welfare schemes will be taken into account in the new EU animal welfare labelling.

European Meat Network (EMN) stressed the need for a holistic approach, and for EFSA to take into account the matter of sustainability and economic aspects. They also stressed the need for a pragmatic approach, and that EFSA should look into what can actually be applied in farms.

Evangelia Sossidou (independent expert) expressed her concerns on these initiatives bringing fewer proteins for consumers and less income for farmers. She asked how these would be addressed.

Ms Bucher, on the veterinary medicine packages, which enters into force in 2022, indicated that there have been no perfect indicators as the data on the usage of antibiotics in farms. Currently we have to rely on data on sales of those, but this will change with the new EU legislation on veterinary medicines.

On the relation with environmental matters, we need a holistic approach as animal welfare has an impact on environment and vice versa. The first assessment made years ago did not take into account sustainability, which will be addressed this time allowing having a full picture, through EFSA's opinion. EFSA will not address economic issues though.

Follow up of the documents produced by the subgroups on animal transport - "Unweaned animals (calves)" and on the welfare of pigs - "Measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse and setting common thresholds"

Denis Simonin, Head of the Animal Welfare sector, Unit 'Animal Health and Welfare', Directorate Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The setup of the Platform has changed with the new priorities under the Farm to Fork Strategy and needs a reorganisation. The two existing subgroups on transport and pig welfare are suspended. A new subgroup on labelling is to be established.

On transport, the document on unweaned calves was not adopted during the last Platform meeting due to the lack of consensus on the concept of prolonged hunger. However, the document could be used to feed the pilot project on welfare of unweaned calves in long journeys. There is a request from EFSA on animal transport with an explicit reference to this issue.

On welfare of pigs, there was no consensus on the proposal to measure tail damage at slaughterhouses. The Unit is being reorganised in order to ensure sufficient resources to be back on track following this matter and manage this subgroup.

Creation of a subgroup on animal welfare labelling

Denis Simonin, Head of the Animal Welfare sector, Unit 'Animal Health and Welfare', Directorate Crisis Management in Food, Animals and Plants, DG SANTE

You can find the presentation [here](#).

On labelling, the Farm to Fork Strategy foresees work on sustainable food labelling although there is no particular reference to animal welfare. In this context, a study will be launched early next year. The task of the subgroup will be to address how the Union can better inform consumers on the welfare of animals. Experience and opinions from EU and main trade partners would be welcome.

The subgroup will analyse and compare data on certification schemes with animal welfare attributes addressing common criteria (technical aspects, communication aspects); assess whether these have been successful or not; propose actions and identify tool to measure progress.

10 seats are foreseen for the following categories of members:

- 4 seats for Member States, EEA members or international organisations
- 3 seats for business and professional organisations
- 2 seats for NGOs
- 1 seat for an independent expert

The expertise required to be part of the group includes drafting standards on food labelling, implementation and audits of standards, communication of food standards and consumer behaviour. The deadline to express interest via the Digital Tool is 15 July 2020.

Questions & Answers (8 interventions)

Eurogroup for Animals asked whether the subgroup on welfare and transport will be suspended. They asked the Commission to publish the guidelines on transport supported by almost all members. They welcomed as well the subgroup on labelling and asked to which extent it will contribute to the study.

VIER PFOTEN stressed that transport of unweaned calves should be ended, supported the mobile application for animal transport and manifested their interest in being part of the subgroup on labelling.

CIWF regretted that the tail docking problem persists 26 years after its ban and stressed that the previous Commission had worked on requirements in the MS action plans to enforce the ban of routine tail dockings. They asked the Commission about the overview reports on animal export by land and sea published some time ago and what will they be used for.

COGECA asked what would be the scope of the labelling subgroup, whether this information to consumer will be about existing requirements/legislation and whether there would potentially be an overlapping with private schemes.

Mr Simonin, on the scope of the subgroup, it will look at different experiences of different nature (voluntary, mandatory, covering solely requirements already established in current legislation, covering areas that go beyond current legislation). The next steps will be defined by the conclusions drawn from this exercise.

On the mobile application, Commission acknowledged its existence and its usefulness although priorities have changed and there is no room at the moment to continue with this initiative. The same applies to tail docking.

On transport, there is an idea in the pipeline of using the empowerments in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls to harmonise or improve the system of approval of inspection of vessels.

European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Small farmed animal asked whether there will be an assessment of how labelling is really connected to the welfare of animals.

World Animal Protection wondered when the subgroup on pigs would be re-established and referred to a letter with such a request, recently sent to Commissioner Kyriakides.

Denmark regretted that the subgroups on pigs and transport should be closed, as there is still a lot to be done in these fields.

FVE stressed the importance of enforcement regarding tail docking and welcomed the revision of the legislation. Commission should remind Member States to not transport animals in high temperatures.

Latvia expressed her doubts against starting with a full labelling framework. Rather, setting the criteria should be the starting point and the role of the quality schemes should be taken into account.

Mr Simonin explained that before considering a new labelling it is necessary to assess what has been done in this regard, how it has worked and whether the existing schemes are already sufficient. The definition of the assessment of animal welfare will come at a later stage.

On the enforcement of the tail docking on pigs, this corresponds to Member States and it does not depend on the work of the Platform.

On the high temperatures and the request for Commission to remind Member States, Director Van Goethem already sent a letter to the Chief Veterinary Officers in May 2020.

Conclusions of the voluntary initiative on responsible ownership and care of equidae – “Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids”

Birte Broberg, Senior Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Ms Broberg reminded the broad composition of the voluntary group.

The presentation addressed the work done so far concerning the guides on donkeys and donkey hybrids, their structure and their purpose. In this regard, guides aim to support responsible keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids, and thus help improve their welfare in the EU and beyond.

The Platform was invited to endorse the guides for their dissemination; the Commission was requested to translate the guides and help in their dissemination.

Conclusions of the voluntary initiative on the health and welfare of pets (dogs) in trade “Infographs and accompanying leaflets for buyers of dogs and for online platforms”

Léon Arnts, Senior Policy Officer Animal Welfare, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture; Nature and Food Quality, Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare department

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The composition of the voluntary group was presented.

The presentation addressed the work done and presented briefly the documents for the endorsement of the Platform: these are buyers’ checklist, which helps potential buyers of dogs online what to look for, and Guidelines for online platforms with minimum information on the animal/vendor. Translation and dissemination of these documents would follow endorsement.

Conclusions of the voluntary initiative on the welfare of fish – “Guidelines on Water Quality And Handling for the Welfare of Farmed Vertebrate Fish”

Katerina Marinou, Head of the Animal Welfare for Farm and Laboratory Animals' Division, General Directorate of Veterinary Services, Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The composition of the voluntary group was presented.

The presentation addressed the guidelines prepared by the group, which will allow farmers, competent authorities and the public to ensure fish welfare. The guidelines propose measures related mainly to quality of water and fish handling. More work needs to be done concerning specific provisions by species.

Ms Marinou invited Platform members to endorse the general guidelines.

The three initiatives were endorsed by the Platform.

Work programmes of the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

Virginie Michel, Director and coordinator of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Poultry and small-farmed animals

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The presentation addressed the establishment of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare of poultry and small-farmed animals. Its main activities are coordinating assistance, providing indicators on animal welfare, developing studies and training courses and disseminating research and innovation. The main priorities of the Centre are the welfare of broilers on farm, of laying hens in alternative systems, the assessment of welfare during electrical water bath stunning for broilers and turkeys, the assessment of welfare during transport to slaughter of broilers, turkeys and spent hens and on farm killing of spent hens.

Hans Spolder, Director and coordinator of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Pigs

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Mr Spolder presented the activities of the centre through an overview of the website. The website contains a repository of documents on welfare and enforcement, links to social media, questions addressed to the centre on various topics, different dossiers and newsletters, among others. The presentation also addressed the work programme for 2020, the meetings ahead and ideas to consider on technical topics such as transport, control posts and improving communication tools. The Platform members were encouraged to send their suggestions on the content of the upcoming work programme by e-mail to the Reference Centre.

Third Action Plan of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Tomasz Grudnik, Veterinary Officer, World Organisation for Animal Health

You can find the presentation [here](#).

The presentation gave an overview of Action Plans 1 and 2, which addressed transport, slaughter and dog population control. The Third Action Plan, covering 2020 to 2022, is focused on animal welfare transport by land and sea within EU countries, EU-middle east or EU-North Africa, improving animal welfare in slaughterhouses and managing populations of stray dogs.

In addition, OIE will work on animal welfare in disasters, on raising awareness on welfare of working equids and improving the OIE communication strategy.

Questions and Answers (3 interventions)

Eurogroup for Animals wondered whether there will be an Advisory Board also for the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare on Poultry and small-farmed animals. They also asked how the impacts of the EURCAW strategy will be measured. Finally, they asked the Commission how the recommendations of these centres are going to be used by the Commission.

Belgium indicated that in 2018 Member States were asked to send in their action plan for reducing tail biting in pigs. Belgium would like to receive feedback on the matter.

COPA asked Virginie Michel what is the scope of the use of the indicators mentioned in her presentation.

Mr Simonin, on the advisory boards of the centres, the Commission stressed that these are on the one hand purely advisory and on the other hand, not necessarily implemented in all Centres.

On measuring the impacts of their strategy, this is not for the centre but for the Commission to assess the effectiveness.

Concerning following up action plans for pigs, the Commission stressed the need to reorganise the resources at an internal level to better assess how to proceed with the workload.

As for the indicators mentioned, these are to help Member States in addressing official controls and should remain within the scope of the current legislation as it is not the role of the Centres to develop new legislation.

AOB

No any other business were raised.

End of the meeting

Bernard Van Goethem closed the meeting by thanking the members and congratulating them for their good work, including the documents endorsed during the meeting and the decision to establish a new subgroup for animal welfare labelling.

The date of the next meeting is 3 November 2020.

List of Participants

European Commission:

Commissioner Stella Kyriakides

DG SANTE: Anne Bucher, Andrea Gavinelli, Denis Simonin, Stanislav Ralchev, Kirsten Vornhagen, Aude Luyckx, Irene Seipelt, Isabelle Verbeiren

DG AGRI: Gebhard Seiwald, Christine Falter

EEAS: Leo Martinon

MARE: Birgit Van Tongelen

TRADE: Francisco Tristante

Speakers:

Branka Buković Šošić, Senior advisor-specialist, Croatian Ministry of Agriculture
Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit, DG SANTE, European Commission
Stanislav Ralchev, Policy Officer, DG SANTE, European Commission
Denis Simonin, Head of the Animal Welfare sector, DG SANTE, European Commission
Birte Broberg, Senior Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Léon Arnts, Senior Policy Officer Animal Welfare, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture
Katerina Marinou, Head of the Animal Welfare Division, Greek Ministry of Rural Development
Virginie Michel, Director and coordinator of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Poultry and small-farmed animals
Hans Spoolder, Director and coordinator of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare – Pigs
Tomasz Grudnik, Veterinary Officer, World Organisation for Animal Health

Member States:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands

European Economic Area (EEA) members: Iceland, Norway

International Organisations: FAO, EFSA, EURCAW on pigs, EURCAW on poultry and small-farmed animals, OIE, World Bank

Business and Professional Organisations:

Animal Health Europe
Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU (a.v.e.c.)
COGECA - European Agri-Cooperatives
COPA – European Farmers
European Association of Livestock Market (AEMB)
Eurocommerce
EuroCoop
European Dairy Association
European Federation of Animal Health Services (FESASS)
European Feed Manufacturers Federation (FEFAC)
European Forum for Animal Welfare Councils (EuroFAWC)
European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB)
European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade (celcaa)
European Livestock and Meat Trades Union (U.E.C.B.V.)
European Meat Network (EMN)
European Rural Poultry Association (ERPA)
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)
Liaison Centre for the Meat Processing Industry in the European Union (CLITRAVI)

Civil Society Organisations:

Animals' Angels

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)
Eurogroup for Animals
Humane Society International/Europe (HSI/Europe)
Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals (ORCA)
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
Slow Food
VIER PFOTEN International (VIER PFOTEN)
World Animal Protection (WAP)
World Horse Welfare

Independent experts:

Elisabetta Canali, Cathy Dwyer, Linda Keeling, Niamh O'Connell, Vytautas Ribikauskas, Lars Schrader, Evangelia Sossidou, Anna Elisabet Valros, Antonio Velarde Calvo

Observer: Switzerland

Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU