Options
Animal Welfare labelling

Summary of the work of the subgroup

Eighth meeting of the animal welfare labelling subgroup

European Commission

The subgroup

- 10 members + Commission + guests

  - **1 Independent expert**   Jarkko Niemi

  - **2 Civil society organisations**   Eurogroup for animals / Four Paws

  - **4 Business and professional organisations** COPA / EMN /ERPA /FVE

  - **3 Member States**   Denmark / Germany / Spain

- 8 meetings since March 2022

Problem definition / baseline

- Problems

  - Consumers coverage (P1) and information quality (P2)

  - Uneven playing field (P3)

  - Renationalisation (P4)

  - Non-EU imports (P5)

  - Food supply chain with unbalanced power

👍 **Agreement with problem definition**

- Baseline

  - Problems not be solved without EU intervention

Regulating animal welfare claims

- Description: voluntary – substantiated claims – protected terms
- Impacts
  - 0 **coverage (P1) / renationalisation (P4) / imports non EU (P5)**
  - + information clarity (P2) / better level playing field (P3)
  - **Difficult to control** by authorities (except if limited to complaints)
- Refining
  - Comparative database?

The option does not addresses many problems

EU animal welfare label on cages

○ <u>Description:</u> voluntary (V) or mandatory (M) – only housing (method of production) - single or multi-tier system

○ <u>Impacts</u>

  ○ 0 coverage (P1) if V

  ○ (-) uneven playing field (P3)

  ○ + information clarity (P2) <u>but</u> not sufficient criteria – **obsolete – not applicable to some animals (broilers)**

  ○ **Divergent views** on impacts of V / M

  ○ + Easy to enforce for authorities

The option does not addresses many problems

An EU animal welfare label with key criteria

◦ <u>Description:</u> voluntary single tier(V1), voluntary multi-tier (VM) or mandatory multi-tier (MM) – Governance – Traceability – Controls - Imports

◦ <u>Impacts</u>:
  ◦ Clarifying what **Mandatory** means
  ◦ No much support for V1
  ◦ **Divergent views on impact V / M** (« the carrot / the stick »)
  ◦ MM better for non EU imports (P5)

👍 **Agreement for Multi-tier**
but debate on Voluntary vs Mandatory

![European Commission logo]

Key criteria across species

« ***Marketing*** » approach

- Few and simple criteria

- Descriptive = non-judgmental / easy to communicate

- Only higher standards

« ***Scientific*** » approach

- Comprehensive range of criteria

- Evaluative = scoring

- All products on market (voluntary or mandatory)

Group divided between the two approaches

Key criteria across species

◦ Establishing criteria should consider
- ◦ Scientific **robustness** vs **simplicity**
- ◦ Commercial **added value** (+ expected uptake)
- ◦ **Costs** related to implement and control them
- ◦ Dynamic system

Agreement for a balance between scientific and business approaches

Governance, traceability and controls

◦ Preparatory work:
  ◦ Initiated and payed by **the Commission**
  ◦ Done by **the Commission** [neither EFSA or Reference Centres]
  ◦ **Draft** *criteria* + impacts + instructions, etc.
    ◦ "non-negotiable" vs "flexible" criteria
  ◦ Explicit *algorithm* (if scoring) but a common one (?)
  ◦ Existing labels vs EU harmonisation

👍 **Agreement that the Commission should prepare the standards (not EFSA or Centres)**

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Governance, traceability and controls (3)

◦ <u>Consultation of stakeholders:</u>
  ◦ A specific board or another system but:
    ◦ **Business** organisations of the food supply chain
    ◦ **Civil society** organisations
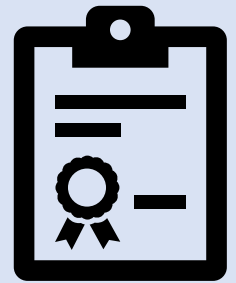   ◦ **Scientists**
    ◦ **Control** authorities / bodies

<u>Need small groups for specific standards</u>

Agreement that stakeholders should be involved in the preparation of the standards

Governance, traceability and controls (3)

◦ <u>Traceability and controls:</u>
  ◦ No extra-rules for operators under compliance level
  ◦ **Registration** and **certificates** for higher levels
  ◦ **EU database for higher levels**
  ◦ Possible additional controls for higher levels

Agreement for additional rules for higher levels

Criteria again

- Higher levels should not be based on **welfare domains**

- Need to establish the **most common practices**, and identify the **most critical** animal welfare **concerns**

- The **whole scope** of products or only **higher levels**?

- Presentation of the label(scoring, descriptive, etc.)

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