



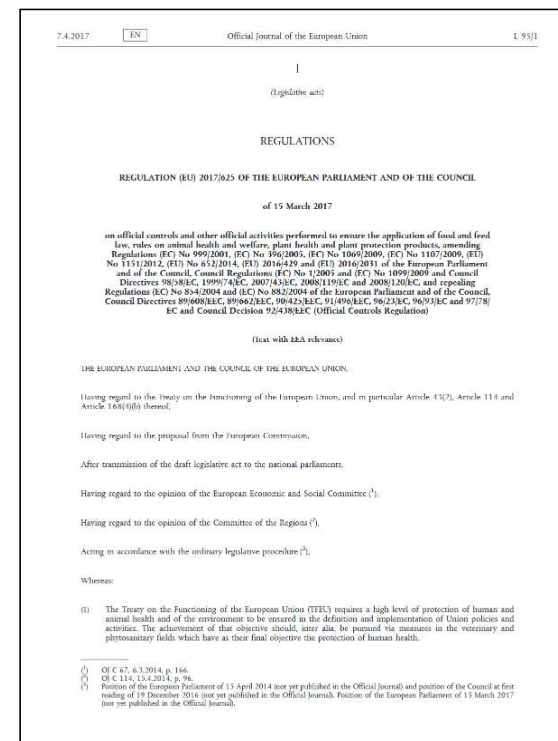
Fourth EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
21 February 2024

Marguerite Kuzma & Ester Alaez-Pons
Animal Welfare, G3
Directorate for Health and Food Safety

Background

- Regulation (EC) 2017/625 on official controls
- Article 95 – Designation of centres
- Article 96 – Tasks of centres





First EU Reference Centre

Consortium from the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany



- Designated in 2018
- Focus on the **welfare of pigs**
- On farm, transport and killing
- www.eurcaw-pigs.eu



Health and
Food Safety





Second EU Reference Centre

Consortium from France, Spain, Denmark and Italy



ISTITUTO ZOOPROFILATTICO SPERIMENTALE
DELLA LOMBARDIA E DELL' EMILIA ROMAGNA
"BRUNO UBERTINI"

- Designated in 2020
- Focus on the **welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals**
- On farm, transport and killing



Health and
Food Safety





Third EU Reference Centre

Consortium from Sweden, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland and Italy



Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare



University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences



Ellinikos Georgikos Organismos-Dimitra/ Veterinary Research Institute



National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment



University College Dublin



Instituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"

- Designated in 2021
- Focus on the **welfare of ruminants and equines**
- On farm, transport and killing

Health and Food Safety





Fourth EU Reference Centre on the welfare of **aquatic animals**

**Designated by a Commission
Implementing Decision 2024/266
on 17 January 2024**



*Health and
Food Safety*



Call for applications

Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) (Spain)

Wageningen Livestock Research (the Netherlands)

Institute of Ichthyobiology and Aquaculture of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)

University of Crete (Greece)

Institute of Parasitology of the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)



Call for applications: selection criteria

- **Team composition and its excellence**
- **Infrastructure**
- **International**
- **Capacity of tasks execution as an EU Reference Centre**
- **Training activities**
- **Disseminating research findings**



Outcome of the selection process

University of Crete (Greece)

Institute of Parasitology of the Biology Centre of
the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)



Fourth EU Reference Centre on the welfare of aquatic animals

Consortium from Greece, Czechia and Spain



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
UNIVERSITY OF CRETE



BIOLOGY
CENTRE
CAS

UAB

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona



EU Reference Centres on animal welfare

Main Activities

(Art. 96 of the Official Controls Regulation)

1. COORDINATED ASSISTANCE
2. ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS
3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES
4. TRAINING COURSES
5. DISSEMINATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS

Main activities

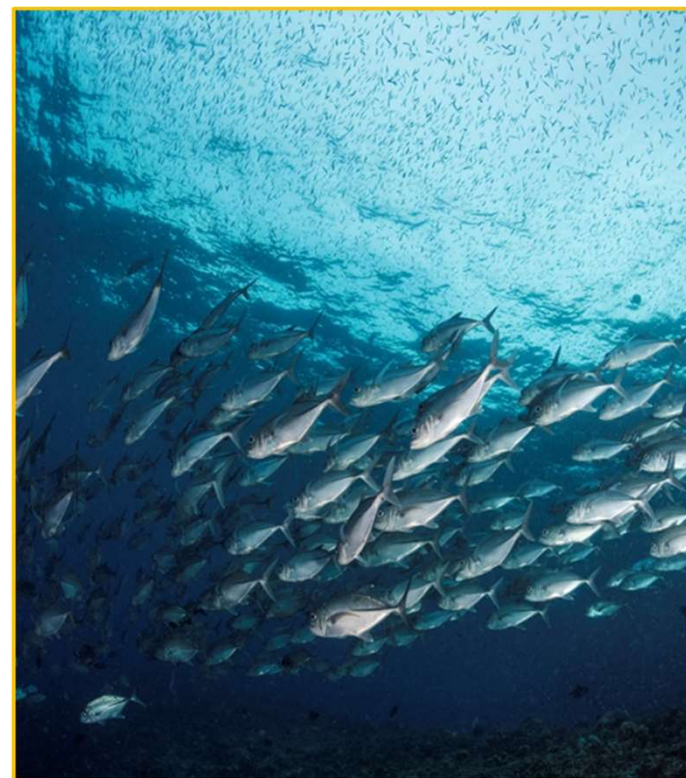
Will cover :

- ‘aquaculture animals’
 - at all its life stages, reared in a farm,
 - including any aquatic animal from the wild intended for a farm.
- the entire production chain from farming, transport to slaughter/killing.



Tasks

- *Will support Member States and the Commission with technical expertise related to the welfare of aquatic animals.*
 - *developing methods for the assessment and improvement of welfare of animals;*
 - *carrying out scientific and technical studies;*
 - *conducting training courses for competent authorities and national supporting bodies;*
 - *disseminating research findings and technical innovations.*
- *Will help in developing animal-based indicators for a better monitoring of welfare of aquatic animals.*
- *Focus on the enforcement of EU rules to assist the competent authorities in performing better official controls.*





Work programme of the Centre

- **The specific tasks of the Centre will be defined in the annual or multiannual work programmes established in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the relevant work programmes adopted by the Commission**



Next steps

The designation should be reviewed every seven years, starting from the day of application of the Decision (1 February 2024)



*EU Reference Centres for animal welfare - European Commission
(europa.eu)*

*Health and
Food Safety*



Thank you for your attention!

