

Subgroup on Animal Welfare labelling

–MINUTES –

Tuesday 27 October 2020, 09.30 – 12.30 CET, Brussels time

Attendance

Independent expert	Jarkko Niemi (JN)
Civil society organisations	Inês Grenho Ajuda (IGA), Alexandra Joos (AJ), Marcin Sokołowski (MS),
Business and professional organisations	Miguel Angel Higuera (MAH), Marie Guyot (MG), Trine Vig Tamstorf (TVT),
Member States	Christina M. Nygaard (CN), Léon Arnts (LA), Maria Teresa Villalba (MTV),
European Commission	Chair Denis Simonin (DS) Margot Kuzma Aude Luyckx Sandra Sanmartin Françoise Divanach Christian Juliusson Isabelle Verbeiren Daniela Marullo Celia Burgaz

Context, mandate and timeframe by the Commission

Denis Simonin

The Chair gave indications on the background, purpose, terms of reference and timeframe of the working plan of the subgroup. The agenda was adopted with no further comments.

The subgroup acknowledged the importance of addressing the angle of consumers' perspective and awareness in the study to be mandated by the Commission. Members were encouraged to provide information available at national and/or regional level in addition to possible information at EU level.

Roundtable: Position, background, interests and experience

Short introduction by each of the members, stating their interest to join the sub-group. They briefly explained the projects, committees or research in which they have been involved within the field of animal welfare at regional, national or European level.

Discussion on the mandate

The subgroup shared their reflections and agreed on the need to consider the following issues:

- consumers' awareness and their involvement within the retail and supply chain sector;
- Involvement of retailers and food processors;
- Impact of schemes on WTO;

- The repeatability of results of audits under a given scheme across countries;
- Experiences on labelling other sustainability aspects ;
- The integration with existing systems addressing animal welfare objectives (such as organic farming);
- Other unrelated food schemes (i.e. Nutriscore) to understand the success factors, their logistics and how they were delivered
- The success (market share or availability) of the scheme

There was not agreement to consider support measures of the CAP on animal welfare as part of information to consumers on labelling.

Working method (discussion on the template)

There was a presentation on the Digital tool of the Platform and the creation of a specific area for the subgroup. Members of the subgroup were invited to register and share any interesting information within the digital tool.

DS presented a template for collecting information on existing schemes and the document was discussed. It was clarified that the template does not aim to assess schemes but rather to compare them on a factual basis, each of them having pros and cons.

The modifications on the template proposed by members included:

- To divide the template into organisational and technical aspects (and the latest separated by species);
- To have specific structured information to allow the comparison of schemes addressing their strengths and weaknesses;
- To add a criteria on stakeholders in the food chain involved in the scheme;
- To list a number of technical criteria assessing welfare elements, indicating availability of information;
- To include any additional information (such as AMR) on the reference schemes;
- To refine the questions on the template, when possible, making them more concise and easier to assess;
- To split information provided to consumers through the label on the product, and to specify which information on animal welfare is given to consumers.

The subgroup agreed on splitting the proposed template in two separate sections and that the first step for the next meeting will be to list the schemes and the purpose on the way to collect the information.

Assignments of topics and tasks

1. *DS will revise the template in order to reflect the discussion of the group and members of the subgroup (in particular IGA, JN, CN, AJ) will be invited to amend and complement.*
2. *All members will collect relevant information on schemes at EU level and from third countries;*
3. *DS will propose an initial bibliography;*
4. *DS will send a list of proposed dates for the forthcoming meetings. Members of the subgroup are invited to give feedback on their availability.*

Calendar for the next meetings

The date of the next meeting is 23 November 2020 (in the morning). Invitation will follow.