

The contributions received under the public consultation summarised in this factual summary report cannot be regarded as the official position of the Commission and its services and thus does not bind the Commission. Data gathered through public consultations does not provide a representative view of the EU population.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE EVALUATION OF THE FEED ADDITIVES
REGULATION
- FACTUAL SUMMARY REPORT –**

1. INTRODUCTION

The public consultation ran from 25 March 2021 to 17 June 2021 and the questionnaire was available in 24 languages. The questionnaire consisted of multiple choice questions as well as open questions inviting the contributors to provide specific feedback.

2. WHAT ARE THE ASPECTS ADDRESSED?

The Commission is evaluating the EU legislation on the authorisation, labelling and use of feed additives. This report presents an overview of responses to the closed questions. An in-depth analysis of the detailed contributions to the open questions will be presented in the synopsis report. The public consultation aims to collect the views of citizens about the EU legislation on the authorisation, labelling and use of feed additives as well as the views of professional and non-professional stakeholders. It seeks to receive information on how citizens view the strengths and weaknesses of the current legislation and the perceived contribution of feed additives to improve sustainability of livestock farming and to keep the current high level of protection of human health, animal health and the environment.

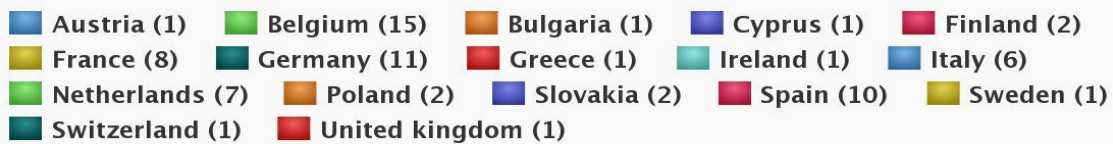
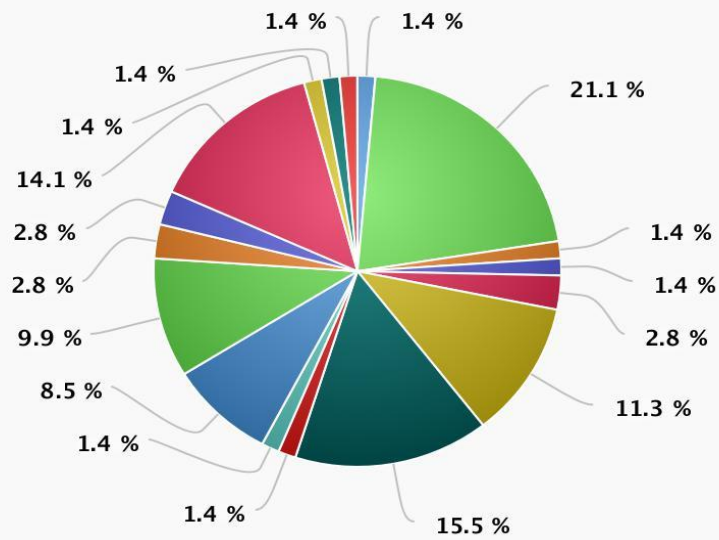
The survey explored different issues:

- Sustainability of livestock farming
- Innovation and sustainability
- Authorisation process, administrative burden and duration of the authorisation
- Labelling of feed additives and premixtures
- Imports, identification and circulation of feed additives only intended for export
- Legal clarity and consistency of the legislation on feed additives.

3. WHO REPLIED TO THE CONSULTATION?

The consultation received a total of **71** contributions: **24** from business and professional associations, **15** from manufacturers of feed additives and feed premixtures, **6** from compound feed and pet food producers, **5** from individual citizens, **3** from EU non-governmental organisations, **4** from academia and research, **3** from national competent authorities, **3** from traders of feed additives, **3** from applicants for feed additives' authorisations and professional consultancies for feed additives' applications, **2** from farmers, **1** from a manufacturer of pet nutritional supplements, **1** from a consultancy for feed in general and **1** from a producer of feed materials. The low response rate of citizens and farmers needs to be noted as well as the significant participation of business associations in relation to individual stakeholders.

Country of origin



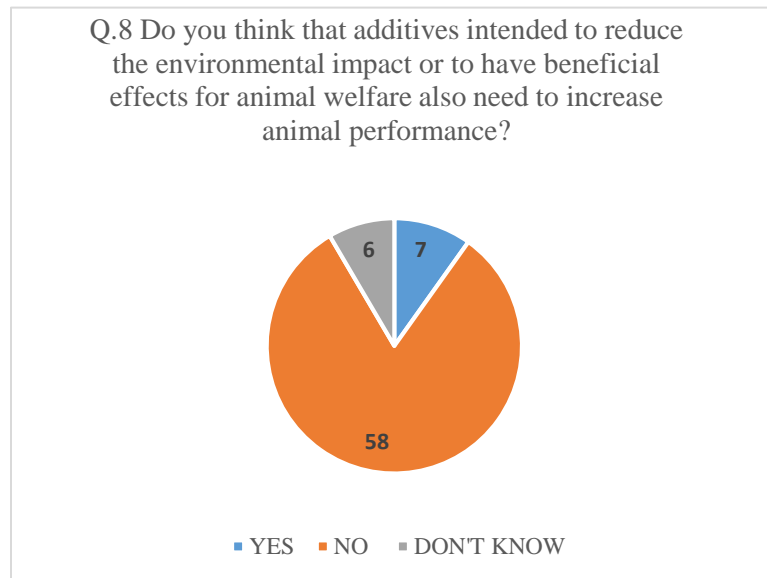
Highcharts.com

The majority of responses came from Belgium (15 respondents), Germany (11), Spain (10), France (8), the Netherlands (7) and Italy (6), while other EU countries contributed with a few answers: Finland, Poland and Slovakia (2 each) and Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (1 each).

4. OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

The vast majority of respondents have a positive opinion of **the effects of feed additives on animal performance** (61 respondents expressed a very or fairly positive opinion), **on animal welfare** (57 respondents with a very or fairly positive opinion), **on the use of antimicrobials in animals** (54 respondents with a very or fairly positive opinion) and **on the environment** (56 with a very or fairly positive opinion). On these different effects, academia and citizens were in general quite positive, as were business actors in the sector. Farmers were also positive on those effects but NGOs were mainly negative or were not able to respond (don't know).

The majority of respondents agree that feed **additives should contribute to reducing the environmental impact of livestock production** (36 respondents fully agree and 25 rather agree), that feed additives should **improve animal welfare** (35 fully agree and 26 rather agree), that feed additives **should be available for all types of animals** (47 fully agree and 14 rather agree) and that feed additives **should be affordable for operators** (45 fully agree and 17 rather agree). When questioned about what effects of the use of feed additives operators should promote, the majority agreed that they should **promote the positive effects on animal health, and thus contribute to reduce the use of antimicrobials** (30 fully agree and 24 rather agree), **on climate, independently of their price** (28 fully agree and 24 rather agree) and **on better utilization of resources** (25 fully agree and 27 rather agree). In general, academia, citizens and farmers tended to agree with business actors on all those contributions of feed additives, except for the better utilization of resources. The NGOs were not able to express a position for the majority of the questions (Don't know).



58 contributors **do not consider that additives intended to reduce the environmental impact or to have beneficial effects for animal welfare also need to increase animal performance.**

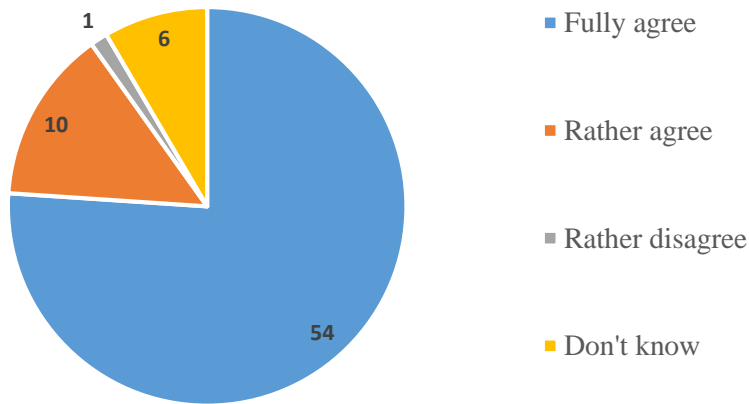
Concerning **data sharing**, three quarters of the contributors (54) fully agree that clear data rules must be set up for animal welfare reasons (tests on animals may be reduced by sharing the results of those tests amongst applicants). In addition, 50 respondents fully agree that data sharing must be mandatory for animal welfare reasons too.

On the subject of claims, more than 50 respondents fully agree that **they are an important tool to raise awareness of scientific and technical innovations in feed additives** and that they **may help to raise**

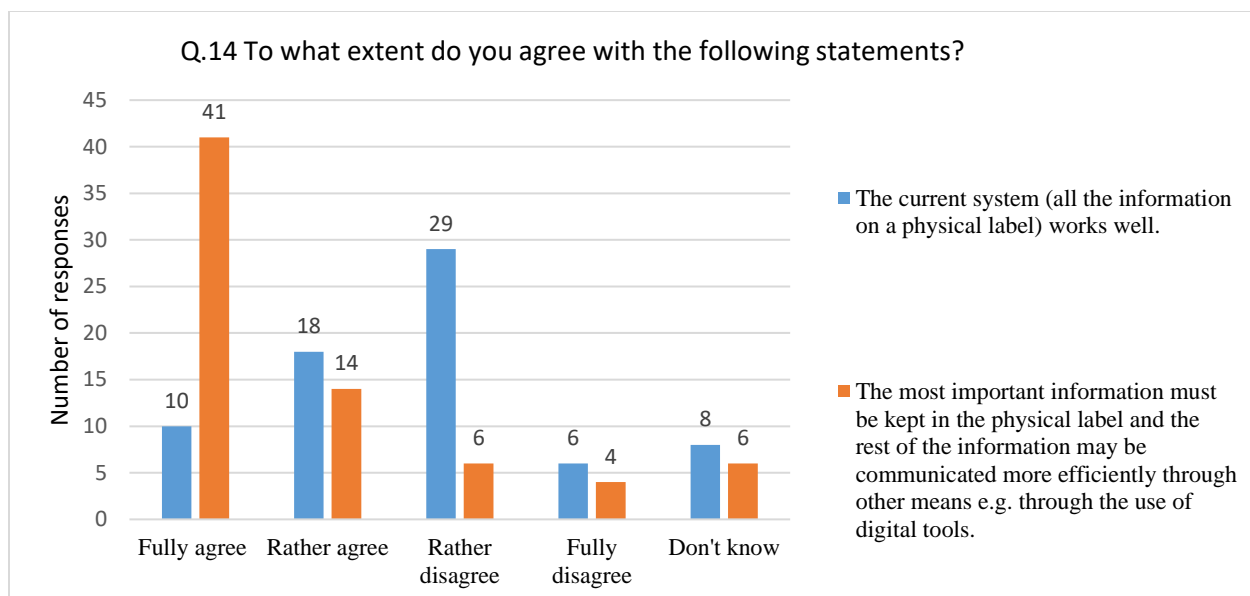
awareness of the effects on sustainability of feed additives in livestock farming. 41 respondents also agree that **additional claims beyond the effects assessed by EFSA should be made possible for feed additives.** On how those claims should be regulated, 19 respondents fully agree and 15 rather agree **that claims must be approved according to specific and detailed provisions.** The majority of stakeholders that agreed with this option included several feed additives manufacturers, a few professional associations and a few feed compounders. Among other stakeholder’s groups:4 out of 5 citizens, 2 NCAs out of 3 NCAs, 2 NGOs out of 3 and the 2 farmers who responded were also in favour of this option. The other possibility to regulate claims was that they **must be substantiated and subject to the controls of the national competent authorities.** For this alternative, 39 respondents fully agree and 8 rather agree. There were more professional organisations, feed additive and compound feed producers in favour of this option. In addition, 46 respondents fully agree and 16 rather agree that claims **may improve the information to users by adding additional information** on the effects or characteristics of feed additives or premixtures.

Regarding the **period of authorization for feed additives,** the majority of contributors agree that the current system needs to be revised by **extending the** authorization period beyond the 10-year period laid down in the current Feed Additives Regulation, in particular, for those additives with a high safety profile, as this will reduce unnecessary burden and costs.

Q.13 To what extent do you agree with the following statement? The change of the authorisation holder should be processed by a simple administrative procedure and the information on the new authorisation holder should be available to the public. Number of



Three quarters of the contributors agree that the **change of the authorization holder should be processed by a simple administrative procedure** and that the **information** on the new authorization holder should be **available to the public.**

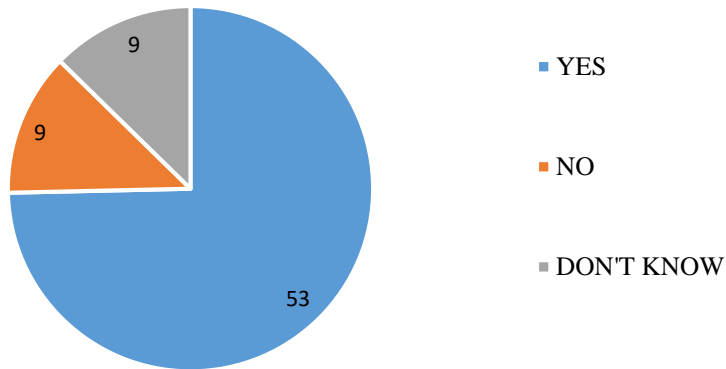


41 contributors fully agree that **only the most important information must be kept on the physical label**, while the rest of the information may be communicated through other means.

When questioned on which information should be kept on the physical label and which information may be transmitted by other means, the majority of contributors indicated the following, as information to be kept on the physical label: **the name of the additive (70), weight or volume (68), batch reference and date of manufacture (65), the identification number of the additive and the species for which it is intended (59 each), the safety recommendations (58), the person responsible for the labelling (53), the approval number of the establishment (46) and the directions for use (44)**. Other means could be used to provide the specific information laid down in the **authorizing Regulation of the additive (62 of respondents)** and to indicate the **functional group (37 of respondents)**. There were no significant differences in stakeholder response between the different respondent groups, except for farmers and citizens who tended to prefer that the information will be kept on the physical label.

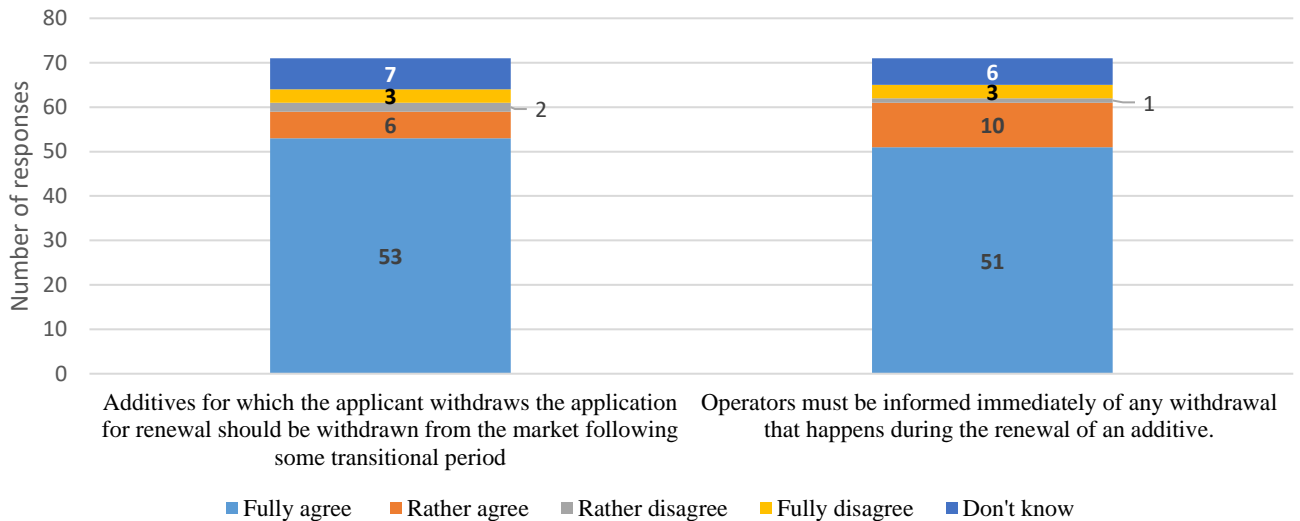
Concerning additives and premixtures only intended for export purposes, 40 respondents fully agree and 10 rather agree on the fact that **these should be allowed to circulate within the EU, provided that they bear an appropriate labelling**.

Q.19 Do you think that recommended levels of use have an added value? Number of responses



Three quarters of contributors agree that **recommended levels of use have an added value.**

Q.20 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



Regarding the **withdrawal of feed additives from the market**, 53 the contributors fully agree **that a transitional period** should be allowed when an applicant withdraws the application for renewal if there are no safety reasons that justify an immediate withdrawal, and 51 fully agree that **operators must be informed immediately** of any withdrawal that happens during the renewal of an additive. Again, there were no significant differences in stakeholder response between the different respondent groups, except for NGOs that were not able to express a position (Don't know).